

Henniker Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2009
Town Hall Conference Room

ATTENDING: Jon Evans, Barbara G. French, Peter Gilbert, Arthur Kendrick, District Commissioners. Tom Dunn, Alternate Commissioner. Kris Blomback, Selectman

Guest: Peter Flynn for a proposal needing approval by the Commission

Called to order at 10:05 a.m.

1. Topic: Introduction of Selectman Kris Blomback.

Discussion: Reviewed role/charge of the Historic District Commission as the designated steward of the historic buildings and land in the immediate vicinity of Town Hall. This includes the Town Hall building, the recently restored Hearse House, the ball field, memorial trees, and historic features. Reviewed recent accomplishments: the Hearse House restoration, the finial on the Town Hall lobby staircase, the Town Hall lobby mural. Discussed future projects: 2nd floor of Town Hall.

2. Topic: Review of minutes from January meeting.

Discussion: None of the commissioners present is available to represent the Commission at the Community Profile Project on April 17 and 18.

Task: Jon to ask Martha Taylor if she is available to attend.

Motion: To approve the minutes from the January meeting **Approved:** 4 – 0 Kris recused

3. Topic: Update on Sounding Board restoration

Discussion: Jon Evans gave an update on the status of the project. Volunteer Terry Stamps is leading the project for the Historical Society with Jon Evans and Historical Society board member Deb Dow. A mock-up of the Sounding Board was made by volunteer Dan Paul and used to see how the Sounding Board can fit into the building and in the museum. Terry is researching suitable, qualified, professional restorers.

Task: Jon will update the Commission at the next meeting.

4. Topic: Certificate of Appropriateness Application by Peter Flynn to replace fencing around baseball field.

Discussion: Peter Flynn presented a written proposal with the Application to replace the existing chain link fencing with new 4 foot high chain link fencing and to add new 6 foot high fencing to enclose dugouts not presently enclosed.

Per RSA, a Public Hearing is required.

Motion: To schedule a Public Hearing for May 12, 2009 at 9 am at Town Hall

Task: Peter Flynn to post Public Hearing Notice and notify abutters. **Approved** 5 – 0 Commissioners to attend hearing.

....2

5. Topic: Memorial Trees on Town Hall property.

Discussion: Peter Gilbert presented a proposal to have produced an architectural landscape drawing of the District to show location of all plantings and to identify those with historic or memorial significance. Cost approximately \$1,850.

Three memorial or significant trees were identified.

1. Bicentennial Oak: white oak planted in 1968. Location: Just to the south of Town Hall entrance
2. Louis Damour Memorial: White Cedar(?) planted in 1995. Location: At the intersection of Circle Street and Depot Hill Road
3. Ron Rosenbleeth Memorial Maple: Maple planted 1994. Location: Just to the north of the Town Hall entrance

Proposal was tabled for future discussion.

Discussion of providing identifying plaques for each tree. Cost unknown.

Discussion included the notation of 7 significant old growth pine trees on the western boundary of Historic District

Discussion included suspension of approval of future memorial trees.

Motion: To no longer approve or accept future memorial trees for individuals in the District. **Approved:** 3 – 1

Task: Jon to research cost of bronze plaques and granite markers for the 3 trees.

Kris Blomback left meeting at 10:15 a.m.

6. Topic: Commission member recruitment

Discussion: Jon circulated a document listing various professional and personal traits as part of the process of recruiting new Commissioners

Task: Each Commissioner is to rank the listed professional and personal traits in terms of desirability for future Commissioners and return to Jon for compilation and review at next meeting.

7. Topic: Gathering on the Green for Memorial Day 2009

Discussion: Discussed the written proposal from the Spirit of Henniker group to hold a Gathering on the Green around Town Hall on Memorial Day, May 25, 2009. The event is to be similar to the Old Home Days Craft Fair held last year. There will be food and crafts for sale, games for children and adults, and a folk band playing music.

Motion: To approve the Gathering on the Green as proposed by Spirit of Henniker group. **Approved:** 4 - 0

Task: Jon will inform Terri Trier of Spirit of Henniker group

8. Topic: Renovation of 2nd floor of Town Hall

Discussion: The renovation of the 2nd floor is a project the Commission would like to see go forward if grant money is available.

Existing estimates for the work are out of date and no longer valid.

Tom Dunn suggested Federal Stimulus funds may be available for the renovation.

Task: Tom to investigate cost estimates and to research grant opportunities.

Topic: Street curbing on Rt 114

Discussion: Peter Flynn noted that the curbing along road is dislocated and needs to be fixed. Rt 114 is a state maintained road.

Task: Peter Flynn to contact State DOT to fix curbing.

Topic: New Hampshire Preservation Alliance

Discussion: The Commission was invited to join the NH Preservation Alliance.

Membership supports preservation and gives access to services including technical advice, directory of preservation contractors and suppliers, grants for preservation services, e-bulletins of training for Historic District Commissions

Motion: To join the NH Preservation Alliance with a membership fee of \$25.

Approved: 4 - 0

Task: Jon to arrange payment from Commission funds and submit membership.

Topic: Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission

Discussion: The Planning Commission wrote to the Town and Historic District Commission regarding the formation of the Currier and Ives Scenic and Cultural Byway Committee which will work to create a Corridor Management Plan over the next year.

The Planning Commission has scheduled a first of four public Byway Committee meetings for Tuesday, April 28, 2009. It has been requested attendance by a member of the Commission, a business owner and homeowner who are along the route which is Rt 202/9 in Henniker.

Task: Arthur Kendrick and Jon Evans will try to attend.

Adjourned 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Evans
Co-chair

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.