

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Minutes of September 8, 2012 Meeting

Present: Maureen vonRosenvinge, BJ Carbee, Barbara Caskie, Michele Ferencsik,
Elly Miles, Diane Curran

Absent with explanation: Betsy Hardwick

Absent without explanation: Becky Meattay

Maureen opened the meeting. The minutes for the August 11, 2012 meeting were approved with the spelling correction of Michele Ferencsik's name.

Maureen reported attendance of approximately 75 at the tours of the Town Hall on Labor Day. She thanked Elly for preparing the handout and suggested the website information be added at the next printing. She said people expressed great interest in the information provided. BJ said many people who came to the Tag Table commented on how wonderful it was that the Town Hall was being restored.

Maureen stated that the LCHIP Grant Round 11 application was completed, delivered and accepted for consideration on Friday, September 7th. The application requests \$28,501 to cover overage costs on the trusses and to finish the [mid span](#) basement supports.

Maureen requested and received a revised RFP from Susan Hungerford. The Commission will ask that she and Mike Petrovick both attend the public meeting to discuss the plans. A meeting date is still to be determined.

Maureen discussed the LCHIP requirement for a Stewardship Plan and distributed a draft for Commission members to review. LCHIP requires documentation of stewardship to ensure the building will be maintained at the renovated standard. The plan is in draft form until it is reviewed and approved by the Town officers. \$5,000.00 is the minimum amount which must be on hand for stewardship [for five years](#) in order to be considered for and receive an LCHIP grant. In addition to the Stewardship Plan [LCHIP requirements](#) include:

- 1) Inspection of the building and a report of any problems. In addition to herself, Maureen has asked Ed Gagnon as a person with engineering experience to regularly check the building.
- 2) Acceptance of the LCHIP RSA guidelines.
- 3) Meeting LTA Standards for Historic Standards.

Maureen asked all Commission members to review the Guidelines (LCHIP.org under Historic tab). The Commission will discuss the Guidelines at the October meeting and try to adopt the Plan by November.

Michele and Maureen were excited and grateful to announce the very generous \$25,000 donation from Drew Houston to the Heritage Fund for the purpose of paying Town Hall bills coming due prior to receipt of grant monies during the project and can be available to be held in the fund to meet the requirement for stewardship. BJ Carbee moved that the

donation be accepted and Barbara Caskie seconded the motion. The vote for acceptance was unanimous. Cecily Houston (Michele's sister) and Michele are also developing plans for future **inclusive** fundraisers which will be structured so that anyone can participate.

Maureen said that additional funding will be required in order to open the building, meeting the requirements for public access. At minimum the structural support systems must be completed for seasonal usage. In order to open during the winter a new heating system must be installed. If the LCHIP grant is received plus an additional \$40,000+/- from Town Meeting, Maureen believes the building could be open by Labor Day 2013. Heating could run from \$15,000 to \$125,000 if a green system is decided upon. Input on green alternatives, including pellet, geo thermal, and PSNH ideas will be sought and presented for consideration at public meetings.

Michele will write an article summarizing the latest Town Hall, fundraising, and publicity/outreach activities.

Diane Curran reported that Steve Griffin has completed the architectural study for the Town Hall Study Group and is reviewing it with Greg Cope. Diane is currently working on the historical part of the study.

The next regular meeting will be October 13, 2012 at 9 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elly Miles