

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION  
Minutes of January 10, 2015 Meeting

Present: BJ Carbee, Barbara Caskie, Diane Curran, Michele Ferencsik,  
Elly Miles, Lisa Stewart  
Excused: Betsy Hardwick  
Others: Betty Behrsing, Ruth Behrsing, Lisa Bourbeau, Scott Carbee,  
Polly Freese

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

Motion made by Diane to approve the minutes of the Heritage Commission meetings for December 13, 2014 and December 19, 2014 as written. Seconded by Lisa. All in favor.

Michele moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. Seconded by Barbara. All in favor.

Michele made a motion that the von Rosenvinge memorial window be in the names of both Jim and Maureen. Seconded by Barbara. All in favor.

Michele reported that the Friends of the Town Hall are going forward with plans for events, three already in the planning stages. The Town Picnic is scheduled for June 27<sup>th</sup>. Jeff Levis is working on a play with a presentation date still to be determined. The International Poetry reading takes place September 26<sup>th</sup>. Lisa B asked that anyone with a Facebook account 'like' the Friends of the Town Hall and encourage others to do so. She noted that LCHIP is following the Facebook page. Ruth stated that the Francestown Village Store has agreed to have the Town Hall T-shirts and mugs for sale there and requested it be included in the next Francestown News article.

It was agreed to continue the Town Hall open days as soon as the weather is warmer and to set up a small student exhibit as a point of interest for tours until the actual restoration work is begun.

Elly said Diane has researched some possible grant funding prospects. Materials will be developed to apply to both foundations and corporate funding sources.

Michele said there was a need for a letter documenting tax status for donations. Elly said she has requested information on the regulations for municipalities in the IRS code.

Michele distributed copies of RSA 674:44-a, 674:44-b, and 674:44-d. Discussion followed regarding the authority of the Heritage Commission, the importance of consulting with Mike Petrovick prior to the January 26 meeting, safekeeping and expenditure of funds, and the importance of maintaining the momentum on the Town Hall restoration. It was agreed that Elly would contact Mike Petrovick right away to schedule a meeting with him.

Michele requested that the following statement be included in the minutes:

I hope the discussion regarding the mission of the Heritage Commission clarifies the purpose and powers granted to this Commission by the State of New Hampshire. Creation of the commissions provide the necessary checks and balances ensuring good governance in the state's municipalities.

In the last six months this Commission has hired a professional grant writer, Barbara Miller, to facilitate the LCHIP grant application. This resulted in an awarded grant of \$200,000.00 from LCHIP, announced in December. In July a satellite group of interested people met to form the Friends of the Town Hall to help publicize the importance of saving this iconic building and to lead the fundraising effort. In conjunction with the Heritage Commission, the Friends participated in the FIHS Labor Day Celebration by providing a float for the parade and ultimately winning a "most Creative" designation. In October of 2014, an open house was held in the Town Hall to allow interested people to celebrate the talented photographers in town and to take guided tours of the building. This open house provided citizens the opportunity to understand the necessity of the renovations and to meet with members of the Heritage Commission and the Friends of the Town Hall. This event also added members to the 100 plus Friends already in place. Four additional Heritage Commission/Friends events are already planned for this coming year.

Information has been provided to the public and the Friends through the media and in emails on a timely basis. All meetings of the Commission are open to the public and discussion is encouraged. Selectman Hardwick, as ex-officio, is a voting member of this body and Selectman Carbee has attended all meetings. In December a flyer was sent to Friends and town residents to encourage further participation in the overall mission to save the Town Hall.

An effort was made to reach Michael Petrovick for his recommendation of candidates for the position of project manager. The Commission has been informed that further endeavors will be discussed at a meeting with the Selectmen on January 26 at 7 PM. In total the Heritage Fund reflects an increase in donations of \$31,760 since July.

Michele moved that in a timely manner after the meeting with the Selectmen on January 26, that the Heritage Commission post the position of Project Manager and send Request for Proposals to the persons recommended by our architect. The position will be put to bid with the understanding that all bids be submitted by March 1, 2015. Seconded by Barbara. Motion passed 5-1.

Michele moved that this Commission ask to be provided with written assurance by the Selectmen that the Heritage Commission will be able to introduce the new project manager and provide a progress update to the citizens of Francestown at Town Meeting in March, 2015 with the intention of moving the bond issue forward at this session. Seconded by BJ. Motion passed 5-1.

The next regular meeting of the Commission will be February 14, 2015  
at 9 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Elly Miles