

FRANCESTOWN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Minutes of February 7, 2015 Meeting

Present: BJ Carbee, Barbara Caskie, Diane Curran, Michele Ferencsik,
Elly Miles, Lisa Stewart
Excused: Betsy Hardwick
Others: Lisa Bourbeau, Scott Carbee, Warren Kiblin

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Motion made by Diane to approve the minutes of the Heritage Commission meetings for January 10, 2015 and January 21, 2015 as written. Seconded by Barbara. All in favor.

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

Elly said Jim Garvin had requested Heritage Commission input regarding the Town Hall National Register application. He is also writing to the Selectmen and FIHS. Instead of an application limited to the Town Hall and Horse Sheds, he and Peter Michaud of the Division of Historical Resources suggest a Historic District including the Common, the Town Hall, the Beehive, and the Fairbanks scale triangle. After discussion of merits vs. possible restrictions as outlined in the letter, all Commission members were in favor of the Historic District application.

Elly said Jim Garvin also wrote in response to her request for his opinion regarding moving the stage in the Town Hall to the second floor, an idea suggested at the 1/21/15 meeting with Mike Petrovick. In his opinion the stage is a character-defining element but we would need to ask LCHIP and the Division of Historical Resources as it is properly their decision. It was decided this topic would be part of the design discussion at the 2/16/15 meeting with the BOS and Mike Petrovick.

In reviewing the time line distributed at the 1/26/15 BOS meeting, Commission members expressed concern with respect to moving forward in a timely manner, Heritage Commission oversight, whether or not we have correct information regarding Code and ADA exemptions and related design issues, and approving disbursements from the Heritage Fund without having more representation in the process. It was agreed Elly would speak with Mike Branley about more participation in the process.

In response to questions re Commission authority and suggestions that an attorney be consulted, Elly passed out correspondence on this issue initiated by a previous chair with an attorney at the NHLGC, noting that the current Town counsel could be contacted if another opinion was desired.

Michele pointed out that questions had come up with regard to the desirability of some windows as seen from the inside. Depending on the final floor plan design some may be located in closets, bathrooms or a kitchen area. Rather than individual window plaques, she suggested a

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large plaque in the entryway listing all window donors with a key for locating the windows. Two plaques will probably be necessary in order to acknowledge other donors who are not window sponsors, the exact design to be determined later on in the process. Michele's motion to this effect, seconded by Lisa, passed unanimously. Lisa will talk with all the current sponsors about the change.

Representation at Town Meeting was discussed. It was agreed that a last year/now comparison, the sign, a thank you for past and ongoing support, an update from the Friends, and a brief overview by Mike Petrovick should be included emphasizing the community project aspect, townspeople working together. Scott and Lisa Bourbeau suggested a slide presentation would be the most effective. It was agreed that Elly would ask Mike Branley's assistance with the slides, ask Mike Petrovick if he will speak, and see Paul Lawrence about a time to be recognized at the Meeting. Lisa Bourbeau said the Friends will have a display table in addition to their slide information.

BJ said she had received a letter from Margot Horn regarding the Commission website maintained by the von Rosenvinges which needs to be updated if it is to remain operative. There was some discussion whether the Heritage Commission needs a separate site as we have the Friends site and a post on the Town site. It was decided to revisit this question after Town Meeting. BJ will communicate with Margot.

The next regular meeting of the Heritage Commission will be March 7, 2015 at 9 AM.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted by Elly Miles