

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Members Present: Maher, Sharps, MacLeod, Ruell

Others Present: Kathleen DeWolfe

[Note: DeWolfe has applied for the vacant position on the Commission. The Selectmen will vote on her application on November 7.]

The meeting was called to order around 4 p.m.

Minutes. On a motion by MacLeod, seconded by Sharps, it was voted to approve the minutes prepared by Ruell for the Heritage Commission meeting of July 12. On a motion by Ruell, seconded by Sharps, it was voted to approve the minutes for the joint July 12 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Heritage Commission and Historical Society Board prepared by MacLeod.

Correspondence. MacLeod presented NH Humanities newsletters,

Treasury. Maher reported the the MVSB account of the Fourth of July funds contained \$21,143.38, and that another \$300 had recently come in. Some Fourth of July Funds, over \$7000, are still held by the AARA, as some bills remain to be paid, and the Fourth of July Committee has not yet decided what to do with those funds. The Heritage Commission has probably spent only \$100 of its \$1000 budget. Maher noted that the Commission spent less than it expected to for such projects as the barn survey and Town Hall study. The same amount has been requested for the coming year.

Town Hall. The LCHIP grant application for the Town Hall report will soon be considered by the committee. MacLeod did answer questions e-mailed by LCHIP. Applicants are usually informed by the end of November. If the application is successful, the matching funds will need to be raised by a town vote or private donations. MacLeod suggesting working on a warrant article for the study.

Whipple House. Ruell reported that the Historical Society received a partial Moose Plate grant for chimney replacement, which should cover much of the cost of replacing the worst chimney. The contractor has to supply a new estimate for the work and answer some questions from the state. The Society will have to raise more money, but it is not clear yet exactly how much that will be. Alternatives were discussed. Ruell said that only remaining code issue appeared to be the railing on the apartment shed stairway. The apartment bathroom fan awaits a report/estimate from the electrician. Maher noted that it was not clear the legal review of the lease had been completed. The issue of who approves alterations, such as the bathroom fan, has not yet been decided by the selectmen. The question of whether those approvals should be given by the Heritage Commission or the Selectmen was discussed.

Municipal Signage. Maher explained that the Selectmen have asked the Heritage Commission to regulate all municipal signage. The Commission would not have to design signs, but would approve all new signs. Maher felt that the Commission should develop a sign policy, with standards and approval protocols. The use of the town seal was also discussed. The seal has not yet been registered for copyright. The town flag, which uses the old pre-1969 town seal, might have to be replaced.

Flag Policy. Maher was asked by the Selectmen to draft a policy for town owned American flags, which was discussed by that Board, then revised, and will be reviewed again at their next meeting. The policy will include raising and lowering the flags, the seasonal use of some flags, and flag disposal.

Fourth of July Budget. The Fourth of July Committee has requested \$5000 in the next town budget to make up for the decline in fundraising. A process for the approval of the Fourth of July budget and bill payments has still to be developed.

Town Wide Yard Sale. Ruell explained that the Community Council has been running both the Town Wide Yard Sale and Christmas Night for the last two years under the auspices of the AARA to take advantage of their

insurance. AARA feels that Christmas Night is an appropriate event to sponsor, but that the Town Wide Yard Sale is not consistent with their primary function. The Community Council is therefore searching for a sponsor with insurance coverage for the Yard Sale, and was interested in perhaps coming under the Heritage Commission's auspices. Maher felt that those parts of the Yard Sale on town property would be covered by the Town's insurance, but did not feel that such protection would extend to sales on private property or anywhere outside town property. Ruell said that the Council is most concerned about its liability for the private yard sales that it advertises. Maher questioned if such insurance was really needed, as sales on private property would be the responsibility of the property owners. MacLeod noted the need for more legal research on the issue.

Christmas Night. The Commission decided to not participate in Christmas Night.

Chairmanship. As Maher has now joined the Board of Selectmen, she wondered if she should continue as the Commission Chair. MacLeod pointed out that her term of office continued until April.

On a motion by Sharps, seconded by Maher, it was voted to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

David Ruell, Recording Secretary