

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

JANUARY 10, 2017

Members Present: Maher, MacLeod, Ruell, DeWolfe, Sharps

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Fire Station.

Minutes. The minutes were deferred to a later date.

Correspondence. The LCHIP award letter and NH Preservation Alliance correspondence on barn surveys were noted.

150th Anniversary. Maher showed the mockup of the Ashland license plate to be sold to raise funds for the 150th Anniversary.

LCHIP Grant. Maher distributed a draft copy of a handout to promote the passage of the LCHIP grant warrant article. Commissioners made suggestions for minor improvements and changes. The consensus was to print and pass out the handout. LCHIP provided a draft of a press release announcing the award, which the Commissioners agreed should be sent to the Plymouth and Laconia newspapers. MacLeod agreed to prepare and send the press release. (Later in the meeting, there was another discussion of the LCHIP grant.)

Barn Survey. Maher had spoken to Frank Stevens, who was interested in helping out with the barn survey.

Town Buildings. Maher handed out copies of a spreadsheet she did of town owned buildings, which she felt could be used by the Heritage Commission to look at the town owned historic buildings. Ruell suggested adding the bandstand.

New Hampshire Preservation Alliance. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Ruell, it was voted to obtain a membership in the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance.

Conservation Commission Meeting. Cristina Ashjian has invited heritage commissions in the area to a meeting, probably sometime in January. Maher will inform the Commissioners of the details of the meeting when they are set, so that anyone who wishes to go can.

March Meeting. Since the second Tuesday of March is the same day as the March town election, the consensus was to meet on March 28 instead.

Reimbursements. The process for obtaining reimbursements for the expenses of the Commissioners who attended the LCHIP awards ceremony was reviewed.

Fourth of July Committee. The question of whether Fourth of July volunteers are covered by the Town's insurance was discussed. Maher reviewed the history of the Fourth of July Committee and its relationship with AARA and the Town. The insurance coverage of the Fourth of July volunteers is now being questioned by the Town Administrator, the town attorney and the Primex representative. The claim is that the insurance coverage is limited to those elected or appointed by the town. The Fourth of July committee members and volunteers are neither. Maher said that the Fourth of July Committee had decided to disband if the insurance problem is not solved. She said that there were about 6 people on the committee, with another 10 to 15 volunteers assisting them with the event. The Commission discussed how to deal with the situation. DeWolfe suggested a meeting with the Fourth of July Committee. On a motion by Maher, seconded by Sharps, it was unanimously voted to accept the Fourth of July Committee as a subcommittee under the Heritage Commission.

NH Humanities Programs. Ruell brought the NH Humanities program catalog and a list of possible programs related to historic buildings. The consensus of the Committee was to sponsor a program, with the first choice being Hubka's "Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn" and the second choice being Wilson's "Wild and Colorful: Victorian Architecture in New Hampshire".

Photographs of Houses. Maher suggested that, as the Commission's contribution to the 150th Anniversary, that we encourage everyone to take a photo of their house, with or without people, as a record of what Ashland looked like in 2018. Photographers could also be asked to volunteer their services for the project, including non-residential buildings. There was discussion of electronic storage versus physical prints. People could also be asked for any historic photos of their homes. On a motion by Maher, seconded by MacLeod, it was voted the the Heritage Commission undertake a pictorial record of all the buildings in Ashland for the 150th Anniversary.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

David Ruell, Recording Secretary