

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

OCTOBER 10, 2017

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

The meeting was called to order about 4:05 p.m. in the Fire Station.

Minutes. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Maher, it was voted to approve the minutes of September 12, with the correction of one typo. The third sentence in the Barn Survey section should read “that they did” not “that the did”. Sharps abstained from the vote.

Correspondence. Correspondence included a catalog and the NHH calendar.

Treasury. Maher reported conflicting totals for the operating budget. She calculates the remainder in the budget as \$855.00, but the town office has \$918.88. The town office reported \$23,015.16 in the Heritage Fund (Fourth of July account) as of August 14. But, Maher said that did not include \$2750 from Chesley and \$2500 in other payments. She will have to go through the town accounts again. By her calculations, the Fourth of July fund should be \$26,676.24. She found on reviewing records in the town office that two payments made to the Town were not reported to her. Her records now show that six advertisers still owe \$1500 to the fund. She has called all of them and will e-mail invoices to them, in part to see if they have paid the Town already. On a motion by Maher, seconded by MacLeod, it was voted to have the finance officer prepare a final report on the Fourth of July fund and present it to the Commission and the Fourth of July Committee, and that any amounts still not paid should be collected by the Committee. Maher also noted that the 2017 fireworks were paid in December of 2016, instead of in January of 2017, further confusing the issue. She is still trying to resolve a discrepancy of \$202.83 in the accounts.

Barn Survey. The Dion barn was visited. Frank Stevens is now working on the survey form. MacLeod took pictures and Stevens took measurements.

There was discussion of whether the Stevens barn should be redone on the revised barn survey form. Three barns were discussed as the next barn to do, with the resulting consensus to survey the Coolidge barn on Hicks Hill Road. MacLeod will contact Stevens about the forms in process and ask him to contact the Coolidges. A letter to the other barn owners composed by MacLeod was reviewed. It was voted, on a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Maher, to approve the letter. The Commission discussed which barn owners to send the letter to and how to obtain tax assessor cards for the barn survey.

Squamstock. Maher proposed printing bumper stickers based on the Squamstock poster without the title. On a motion by Maher, seconded by DeWolfe, it was voted to print 100 stickers. The funds raised from sticker sales will go into the Heritage Fund. Maher suggested inviting the Ashland and Holderness historical societies to participate in Squamstock. She is planning on a Sunday, July 1 event, the date the governor signed the act creating the Town of Ashland. Her preliminary budget is \$1500 to \$2000, for police, lifeguards, posters, etc. Advance ticket sales and parking were discussed. The consensus was to invite the two historical societies to co-sponsor the event.

Banner. Maher proposed a 12 X 36 inch banner for the Commission, suitable for hanging from a table. She had previously sent the banner design to the Commissioners. On a motion by Maher, seconded by Sharps, it was voted to obtain such a banner.

Whipple House Trees. Ruell reported that the tree growing into the Whipple House shed foundation had been removed and that the tree near the Whitten House should be removed soon, after the work on the nearby shed roof has been completed.

Fourth of July Committee. MacLeod asked if the Fourth of July Committee bylaws/rules of procedure should be added to the Heritage Commission rules of procedure. Maher explained that the bylaws were drafted by the former members of the Fourth of July Committee when it appeared that the committee might go defunct, and were never presented to the Heritage

Commission for review or approval. She said that the bylaws were voted on by that committee, but never really completed. There was discussion of what should or should not be included in rules of procedure, such as descriptions of officers' duties, notice requirements, dates of adoption and approval, and the future of assets after dissolution of the committee. MacLeod will work on a template for what should be included in the rules of procedure.

After a brief discussion, it was voted on a motion by MacLeod, seconded by DeWolfe, that if the Fourth of July Committee chooses to transition to a Town Committee as approved by the Ashland Board of Selectmen, the Heritage Commission will abide by that decision, and recommend that it happen by December 31, 2017. Should a fund transfer to a Board of Selectmen-controlled non-lapsing account not occur prior to receiving invoices by January 1, 2018, the Heritage Commissioners shall continue to expend from the Fourth of July account in the Heritage Fund as has been previously established.

The fact that none of the officers of the Fourth of July Committee are Ashland residents was discussed. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Sharps, it was voted 4 to 1 that at least one officer of the Fourth of July Committee should be an Ashland resident. It was suggested that the Committee could create another officer position, such as second Vice Chair or Corresponding Secretary.

Town Hall Grant. MacLeod had prepared and distributed a draft application for a \$5000 grant from the Meredith Village Savings Bank Foundation to help match the LCHIP grant for the Town Hall report. It was voted, on a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Maher, to approve the application, with the removal of the section of what would be done if the grant was not received.

The meeting adjourned at about 6:05 p.m.