

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 14, 2017

Members Present: MacLeod, Maher, DeWolfe, Ruell, Sharps
Others Present: Fire Chief Steve Heath

The meeting was called to order in the Fire Station at 4:09 p.m.

Minutes. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Sharps, it was voted to approve the minutes of October 10.

Finances. Maher reported that, with the payments for Appreciation Day costs and the new banner, the operating account had a balance of \$765.18 remaining of the 2017 appropriation. The Fourth of July Fund now has only two outstanding debits. Everyone has paid except Poulos Insurance and Wholly Tara, and there was some question as to whether Wholly Tara had actually ordered its banner in 2017. Maher will check them out. She is still out of balance with the Town accounts, and needs more information from the Town for interest and other items not yet entered into the Town accounts.

Fourth of July Committee. Ruell explained that the Fourth of July Committee had adopted revised rules of procedure, based on the proposed rules from the Heritage Commission, with several changes, such as the elimination of the requirement that one officer be a resident of Ashland. The Selectmen had required that the Committee submit rules of procedure, when voting to make the Committee a separate committee under their auspices. The non-lapsing fund for the Fourth of July monies was discussed, including the need for a public hearing by the Selectmen on the new fund and the transfer of money into it, and the need for both the Heritage Commission and the Selectmen to approve the transfer.

Barn Survey. MacLeod has not received anything from Frank Stevens on the Dion barn, or on the next barn in the survey. She has sent him a page of photos for the Dion barn, and will contact him. She will also mail the letter to

the owners of the other barns. Maher has taken photos of the interior of the Winn barn, now owned by a bank and on the market. The survey of the Sharps barn was also discussed.

Photo Projects. Maher displayed images of old Ashland postcards from her collection. She suggested that the postcards be used for a series of then and now photographs, by taking photos of the same scenes today. She added that such photos could be published as a book. A discussion of how to do this followed. The 2018 Ashland Home Photo Project was also discussed, Ruell is working on the Historical Society's photo display for Christmas Night, which this year will be Ashland Houses, virtually all with residents posed in front of them. He suggested using this display as a way of introducing townspeople to the concept of the Home Photo Project. Maher said that the photos would go into the Historical Society files for future reference, and that people should also be asked for old photos of their houses, if they have any, to be copied. MacLeod suggested scanning days for copying old photos.

Sharing. The new Heritage Commission table banner was displayed. DeWolfe distributed copies of a news article on towns reusing old buildings.

Fourth of July (cont.) On a motion by Maher, seconded by Sharps, it was voted to discontinue the Fourth of July Committee as a subcommittee of the Heritage Commission. On a motion by Maher, seconded by DeWolfe, it was voted to transfer the Fourth of July funds now part of the Heritage Fund, with whatever balance remains, after the Selectmen vote to accept those funds in the new non-lapsing account.

Town Properties. Maher has updated the Town properties list with additional information and has sent the files to the Commissioners. She suggested a meeting in January for a town wide discussion of all the town owned properties, to solicit different ideas on the use of those properties. She would also include the old school owned by Tri County CAP in this discussion. Ruell questioned whether the discussion about alternative uses of the Town Hall might raise uncertainty about its future and lessen the support for the LCHIP study, and suggested delaying the discussion until after the Town

vote. Maher felt that the LCHIP study could include looking at future uses of the building as proposed by citizens during the discussion.

LCHIP Study Warrant Article. MacLeod stated that the publicity for the LCHIP warrant article should be more positive. Maher stressed the need to start working on it soon. The decision of the Meredith Village Savings Bank on the Commission's request for a grant for the study is due in December. MacLeod said that the public discussion should include what the Town Hall will be used for. Publicity was discussed. MacLeod suggested a subcommittee of two to work on the publicity. MacLeod and DeWolfe agreed to serve on the subcommittee.

Seasonal Decoration of the Town Hall. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Sharps, it was voted to request the Selectmen's permission to seasonally decorate the Town Hall for the rest of 2017 and during all of 2018. Maher reported that she had been given two 48 inch wreaths to decorate the Town Hall this Christmas at Plymouth's Town Wide Yard Sale. She has purchased bells and ribbons for the wreaths. The decoration scheme was discussed. The plan was to decorate the building in time for Christmas Night, beginning the next day.

Rules of Procedure. MacLeod suggested that the Commission's Rules of Procedure should include language on the handling of subcommittees.

Town Report. MacLeod will begin work on the annual report for the 2017 Town Report.

Fourth of July (cont.). Honoring the former Fourth of July Committee members for their service was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.