

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

DECEMBER 12, 2017

Members Present: MacLeod, DeWolfe, Ruell, Maher

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Fire Station.

Minutes. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Maher, it was voted to approve the minutes of November 14, with the addition, at the end of the paragraph at the bottom of page 3 that begins “Fourth of July (cont.)”, of the following sentence “Maher agreed to provide a list of names.”

Correspondence. The Meredith Village Savings Bank Foundation declined to fund our grant application for the match of the LCHIP grant for the Town Hall study.

Finances. Maher reported that the operating account had not changed since the last meeting. In the Fourth of July account, she was still looking for \$47.50 that predated the Heritage Fund. The last two checks for banners (MVSF and Poulos) were in process. Wholly Tara wrote a check in June for a banner, but it is unclear what happened to it. A few items still have to be credited to the Fourth of July fund by the Town Office.

Fourth of July Committee. Ruell reported that the Fourth of July Committee had developed a 2018 budget and adopted Rules of Procedure as requested by the Selectmen. But, it was not known if those had been submitted to the Selectmen. At Maher's suggestion, it was agreed to send a memo to the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Treasurer, and the finance officer of the Fourth of July Committee, reminding them that, until the Selectmen create a new non-lapsing fund and approve the transfer of the Fourth of July funds to that fund, those funds will remain under the control of the Heritage Commission and any use of the Fourth of July funds will have to follow the procedures established by the Commission. The hope was that the transfer of funds would take place soon.

Barn Survey. MacLeod will work with Frank Stevens on the outstanding survey forms. The Commissioners discussed future work on the survey.

Home Photo Project. Maher has set up a g-mail account for the Commission, which will be used to create a Facebook page for the Commission. Facebook can then be used for the electronic transmission and storage of the photos in the Home Photo project. Everyone could then view the photos on Facebook. The question of who would pay for the printing of paper copies of those photos for archival storage remains to be resolved. Publicity for the project was discussed, including Selectmen's meetings, the town website, press release, the local news column. Maher suggested that this could be an ongoing project, and does not have to be limited to 2018.

Squamstock. Maher presented a proposed budget, using pessimistic numbers, exaggerated expenses of \$2100 to \$2500 and low balled revenues of around \$4500. The commission reviewed the budget. The possible participation of the two Historical Societies was discussed. The question of which child oriented effort the funds should go to was reviewed, with the school art programs, the libraries and the summer recreation programs all suggested. The consensus was to start with the school art teachers, then move to the recreation programs. It was noted that the funds do not have to go to the same type of child oriented program in both towns. The 150th Anniversary Committee's memo to the Selectmen on Squamstock was reviewed and a response outlined. The date of Squamstock, currently planned for July 1, was also reviewed, with an earlier date in June also being suggested.

Whipple House. Ruell noted that a railing has been installed around the open stairwell in the apartment shed at the Whipple House to address safety concerns.

Town Report. The Commission report for the Town Report was reviewed and approved with minor changes. The question of whether the Commission will sponsor future Town Appreciation Days was raised, but the assumption is that it will still be the organizer of the TOAADs.

LCHIP Grant. Ways of promoting the passage of the LCHIP grant article were discussed, including a Powerpoint presentation at the deliberative session, press releases, and an online presentation with videos of those areas not usually seen by the public.

2018 Events. Program ideas for 2018 were reviewed, including the history of the Town Hall, between the deliberative session and the Town election; the history of the Fourth of July celebration in the spring; the history of the Beach Booster Association or the Booster Clubhouse in August; and the history of the Town's memorials in the fall. These would be short 20 to 30 minute presentations based on previous research, mostly by Ruell.

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

David Ruell, Secretary