

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

OCTOBER 4, 2018

Members Present: Hughes, Ruell, DeWolfe

Others Present: Jane Sawyer, Bob Baker, Sherrie Downing

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. in the Fire Station.

Minutes. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Hughes, it was voted to approve the minutes of the August 14 and 21 meetings.

Correspondence. The only correspondence was the NHHS newsletter.

Finances. The only recent expenditure was \$47.50 for the split rail fence erected at the Town Hall. Later, Hughes was asked to remind the Treasurer to transfer any unused 2018 Commission funds to the Heritage Fund.

Squamstock. Squamstock was briefly discussed.

Review. The state laws and warrant article governing the Heritage Commission were reviewed and discussed. Under the warrant article, the Heritage Commission inherited the responsibilities of the former Historic Commission regarding the Whipple House Museum, but it was not completely clear to the Commissioners what those duties and powers are, and what relationship the Heritage Commission has with the Museum. Hughes will seek clarification from the Town Administrator on that relationship.

Town of Ashland Appreciation Day. Hughes explained that TOAAD was held on September 21, with four volunteers who sorted materials in the old jail, spread mulch and erected a split rail fence behind the Town Hall. DeWolfe noted that the Police Chief was pleased with the results and has worked with the Department of Public Works to pave the police parking space in that area. Before TOAAD, DPW repaired the shelves in the old jail, removed much material from the jail (in cooperation with the Police Department) and prepped the area for landscaping, and the Water and Sewer Department and Commission provided and poured cement to fix the deteriorating jail floor. Hughes thanked the volunteers and the town departments who helped.

Barn Survey. Only two barns, the Frank Stevens barn and the old state barn, have been surveyed to date. It was explained that the 91A posting requirements complicated and slowed the survey process. (There was a lengthy discussion at this point on who could speak and when during the meeting.) Legal advice was received that surveys by the Commission or subcommittees had to be posted and open to the public. The Commissioners present had not seen the barn survey files. The Commission files are now in the Town Office conference room. Hughes will look into the files and the key for them, and bring the barn files to a later meeting.

War Memorials Program. The status of the War Memorials program was unclear, so Hughes will inquire about it.

Historic Properties. The Commission had previously reviewed the Whipple House and the Town Hall, resulting in the LCHIP grant study for the latter. Other town owned properties were discussed, ending with the suggestion that the Booster Club might be the next one to focus on. Hughes suggested presentations on Whitten Woods, Riverwalk and the Scribner mill.

Email and Facebook Accounts. Access to the Commission's e-mail account was problematic, so Ben Hughes will be asked to determine how to get into it. The Commission's Facebook account was also discussed. DeWolfe noted the need for an administrator for the account.

Ashland Cultural Events. The Commissioners developed a list of ongoing events in Ashland, including Christmas Night, Memorial Day, Town Wide Yard Sale, TOAAD, Concerts and Movies in the Park, Fourth of July, Skate and Sled Day, Harvest Dinner, Breakfasts with Santa and the Easter Bunny, and Historical Society programs, and also noted one time events, such as the planned 150th anniversary of the Railroad Station. Hughes suggested that the Commission contact the various sponsors of these events and ask what we could do to help promote them. The feeling was that publicizing the events would probably be the best role for the Commission. Creating and distributing a master list of events would help attract more people to them and help residents know what is going on in town. Suggestions for publicity included local access TV, selectmen's meetings, newspapers, an email newsletter and other internet activities.

Next meeting, After some discussion, the consensus was to meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29.

David Ruell, Recording Secretary