

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

JULY 9, 2019

Members present: Hughes, Ruell, S. Harville, J. Harville

The meeting began at 6:35 p.m. in the Fire Station.

New Members. New Commissioners, John and Susan Harville, were introduced.

Duties and Responsibilities. Handouts on the duties and responsibilities of Heritage Commissions, copies of the relevant state laws and the Heritage Commission's webpage were distributed by Hughes and reviewed by the Commissioners.

Rules of Procedure. The rules of procedure were also reviewed. As only Ruell had a copy, more copies will be made and they will be placed on the website.

Access to Files, Web Page, and Facebook Page. Hughes has not been able to access the files in the Town Office, the web page or the Facebook page.

Finances. Hughes reported that about \$850 was carried over from the previous year, and another \$500 was appropriated for the Commission for 2019. So, the Commission has approximately \$1350 in available funds.

Election of Officers. On a motion by S. Harville, seconded by J. Harville, it was voted to elect Kendall Hughes as Chair. On a motion by S. Harville, seconded by J. Harville, it was voted to elect David Ruell as Secretary. On a motion by S. Harville, seconded by Hughes, it was voted to elect John Harville as Finance Officer. On a motion by J. Harville, seconded by Hughes, it was voted to elect Susan Harville as Vice-Chair.

Review of Past Year. Hughes reviewed the recent past. He noted that after he was elected Chair, a couple of meetings had resulted in much controversy. Following resignations and term expirations, the Commission lost its quorum and was therefore unable to meet. (At one point, Hughes was the only official member of the Commission left.) He described the TOADD project of the last year and talked about doing another project this year. He noted that the Baptist Church was willing to do a community barbecue for a town event. Ruell talked about the status

of the Barn Survey.

Future projects. Nominations for the National Register of Historic Places and the NH State Register were discussed. There are seven Ashland properties with ten structures on the National Register (Town Hall and Jail, St. Mark's Church and Parish Hall, Gristmill and Dam, Whipple House, Railroad Station, Baptist Church, Old School). The Reuben Whitten House is the only Ashland building on the State Register. Ruell thought that there were privately owned buildings, such as the Cheney House or the Shepard Block, that could be eligible for the Registers, but there were probably no other public buildings that were candidates. (Because of the 50 year rule for the Registers, the covered bridge will not be eligible until 2040.) Plaques for the National Register buildings were discussed. Other types of historical plaques, the Town Hall study, and possible public programs were also briefly discussed.

Cemeteries. Ruell showed the Commissioners the signs that the Historic Commission had planned to erect at the Whitten Cemetery and explained why they were not. The signs were recently left at his house and would be the responsibility of the Heritage Commission, as it is the successor of the Historic Commission. The possibility was discussed of marking other old cemeteries, particularly those on roads, perhaps in cooperation with the Cemetery Trustees. Hughes texted Sherrie Downing, who responded that the Cemetery Trustees would be interested. Later in the meeting, refurbishing a cemetery on TOAAD was discussed. The need for using proper techniques to repair or clean tombstones was stressed. A cemetery walk was also discussed.

Files, Website, Social Media (cont.) S. Harville will search the Commission archives at the Town Office, and seek access to the web page. Attempts to find the Commission Facebook page were unsuccessful, which suggested that it had been discontinued. The consensus was to start over. S. Harville will research the social media issue. Hughes suggested links to other Ashland pages. #ashlandnhheritage was chosen as a hashtag.

Next meeting. The consensus was to meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 8.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.