

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

JANUARY 9, 2018

Members Present: MacLeod, DeWolfe, Ruell, Maher

The meeting began at 4:06 p.m. in the Fire Station.

Barn Survey. There has been no communication yet with Frank Stevens. Ruell reported that Tim Alexander, the new owner of 25 Winona Road, e-mailed him to find historical information on the house. Ruell will ask him about including the barn in our survey.

LCHIP Grant. Publicity for the LCHIP grant article and the needs of the Town Hall were discussed. Themes for publicity mentioned were the need for investing in town property, deferred maintenance decreasing the life and value of town assets and leading to greater expenses in the long term, the ownership of the Town Hall by all the Town's citizens, the need to find out what has to be done in the building and to develop priorities for that work, downplaying the Heritage Commission and emphasizing the Town of Ashland. Means mentioned included a speech at the deliberative session, handouts, posters, press releases and letters to the newspapers,

Fourth of July. Maher has received the \$14,000 check request for the fireworks and will get the two required Commissioner signatures and deliver the approved check request to the Town Office. The procedure followed by town officials was discussed as the check was requested by the Town Administrator and cut by the Town Treasurer before the Commission took action on the request. MacLeod pointed out that this violated state laws (RSAs 41:29-I and 674:44d) which require the Commission's prior approval for any withdrawals from the Heritage Fund. The explanation was that the check writing cycle might not be fast enough to meet the January 15 deadline for the fireworks payment. The check was apparently held and not sent while waiting for the Commission's approval and could have been torn up if the Commission did not approve. Still, the incident raised concerns. On a motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Ruell, it was voted to send the Selectmen, Town

Administrator and Treasurer a letter reminding them of the proper procedure for handling the Heritage Fund.

The handover of the remaining Fourth of July funds to a new separate fund is scheduled for action at the Selectmen's January 16 meeting. Maher said that she was still missing information, such as six months of bank interest, so she cannot determine the exact amount of the Fourth of July funds that should be transferred. There was some concern that the Heritage Commission funds in the Heritage Fund, \$765.18, might be handed over inadvertently. So, that amount will be mentioned in the letter.

Home Photo Project. Maher will place photos of the Commissioner's homes on the Face-book page to help start the project.

Town Hall Program. A Power Point presentation will be prepared from Ruell's talk on the Town Hall. He will find photos of the Town Hall for Maher to copy. The consensus was to schedule the program for 7 p.m. on March 1, with St. Mark's hall being the first choice of place and the school library the second choice.

Meeting. It was agreed to hold the March meeting on March 20, to avoid the local election.

Barn Survey (cont.) DeWolfe suggested we all go to the barn surveys and post them as public meetings, but allow the owners to prohibit access of the public to their property. The legal advice we received was reviewed and discussed. The issue was raised of posting for other occasions when three or more Commissioners are present at some Commission sponsored task, such as preparing for an event. MacLeod suggested giving barn owners the option of having the public attend the barn survey. If they do not want the public to attend, only two Commissioners will participate to avoid a public meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

David Ruell, Recording Secretary