

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

NOVEMBER 21,2019

Members present: Kendall Hughes, Sue Harville, John Harville, David Ruell

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m in the Fire Station.

Membership. Hughes explained that Kathleen DeWolfe had resigned as the Selectmen representative on the Commission. Fran Newton will now be the Selectmen representative, with Casey Barney as the alternate.

Hughes was then called away to cover an accident, so Vice Chair Sue Harville took over the meeting.

Minutes. On a motion by John Harville, seconded by Sue Harville, it was voted 3 to 0 to approve the minutes of August 8. It was pointed out that Don Latulippe is not the owner of the Church Hill Cemetery, as had been stated in the August 8 meeting.

Finances. John Harville reported that the Heritage Fund remains at \$1684. The decision of the selectmen to reduce the Commission's 2020 budget from the \$500 request to \$1 was discussed. No explanation has been given to the Heritage Commission members. The default budget amount of \$1, instead of the \$500 appropriated in the 2019 budget, was also questioned. John Harville will ask the Town Manager about these changes. Ruell asked about paying the annual NH Preservation Alliance dues. Susan Harville will check the mail to see if we received a dues request from NHPA. (Later, on a motion by Ruell, seconded by John Harville, it was voted 3 to 0 to pay the NHPA dues if they have not been paid.)

Cemetery Project. Action on the Church Hill Cemetery was delayed by the question of ownership of the property. Sue Harville will ask the Tax Collector who owns the property.

Properties on the National Register. Plaques for the National Register properties in Ashland were discussed. The Town Hall and Jail are the only town owned buildings on the National Register that do not have a plaque. Sue Harville will research the cost of National Register plaques.

Plaque Inventory. The inventory of plaques in public buildings and places was tabled for future discussion.

Review of Heritage Commission Files. Sue Harville described her adventures in reviewing the Heritage Commission files and distributed a list of the Commission's file folders in the Town Office.

Barn Survey. The history of the barn survey project was reviewed, as well as the legal questions arising from Commission members visiting the barns. The question of whether such fact gathering fieldwork constituted a public meeting, if no decisions were made or issues discussed during those visits, was discussed. Sue Harville will look at the Commission files to determine the status of the barn surveys already begun.

Next Meeting. The tentative date of Thursday, January 23 was agreed on for the next Commission meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

David Ruell, Secretary