

ASHLAND HERITAGE COMMISSION

JANUARY 30, 2020

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

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

Correspondence. The only correspondence were newsletters from the NH Preservation Alliance.

Minutes. On a motion by Sue Harville, seconded by John Harville, it was voted to approve the minutes of the November 21 meeting as written.

Finances. The only payment since the last meeting was \$50 for NH Preservation Alliance dues, so the account is now \$1634. The Budget Committee recommended a \$1000 budget for the Heritage Commission in the 2020 Town Budget.

Cemetery Project. Sue found a guide for the preservation of historic cemeteries on the NH Old Graveyards Association website and sent us all a link to that guide. There is still uncertainty on whose property the Church Hill Cemetery is located on. The Town Clerk thought that it was on the Souza or Newcomb property. Hughes later texted Derek Newcomb who said that it was on neither property and suggested two other property owners. Ruell will look for the Blue Sky subdivision map to see if it shows the cemetery. Ruell read some materials he had found on the burial of Louisa Shepard, the last person buried in the cemetery. The possible need to ask the Cemetery Trustees for permission to work on the cemetery was reviewed.

Barn Survey. Sue did not find any materials on the Stevens barn or the State barn, for which information was gathered for barn survey forms, in the Commission files. Ruell will contact Sue MacLeod and Frank Stevens about the status of those survey forms.

Town Clock. Tower clock expert Philip D'Avanza visited the present town clock in the Community Church and the old town clock at the Public Works Department. His suggestion for the present clock was to replace the electric mechanism with a new electric clock mechanism, and to repair the clock faces and the exterior clock hands. D'Avanza will prepare a proposal for this work. Sue will send pictures of

the present clock and the tower. D'Avanza noted that the clock weights (now removed from the tower) would have presented a safety hazard if the cables holding them had ever given way. The condition of the church tower is of some concern, as some beams are rotting. The church has received an estimate of \$50,000 for repairs to the steeple from a Maine company. Repairing the present town clock in place is problematic if the tower itself is in jeopardy. At the Public Works sheds, D'Avanza found that most of the old clock parts are still present and in good shape. It is the same clock model as the Hampton town clock. He invited Historical Society and Heritage Commission members to visit the clock in Hampton the next time he services it. He would also try to arrange a meeting with the leader of the committee that raised the funds for the repair and rehousing of the Hampton clock after the church in which it was located burned. He suggested that the Hampton project could be a model for the treatment of the old Ashland clock. The Town Manager had asked the Commission to research grants for the present town clock. There was also discussion of how funds could be raised for the repair of the church steeple. Sue had information on the application procedures for the Moose Plate and LCHIP grants. Someone would have to attend required grant workshops for LCHIP in February or April. There was discussion of other fund raising possibilities. Hughes will contact church officials about seeking another quote from a local firm for the steeple repair. A community effort will probably be needed to save the steeple and the town clock it houses.

Plaques. The Commission discussed a survey of plaques in public places. The consensus was to record non-donor honorary plaques first and to add donor plaques later. The idea was to create a few books recording the plaques with photos and texts and place those books where they could be read by the public. Various buildings and places were discussed, including the four churches. Sue compiled a list of the places to be explored during the discussion, which she will send to all the Commissioners. Hughes volunteered to find the plaques in the Fire Station and St. Mark's Church. National Register plaques for the ten National Register structures in Ashland were also discussed.

Next meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 19, in the Fire Station.

On a motion by Sue Harville, seconded by John Harville, it was voted to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.