

HAMPSTEAD HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMISSION

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

DRAFT Minutes – Dec. 16, 2023

Weather @ 7PM EDT: A few clouds and 24 degrees F.

Meeting came to order at 7:01AM EDT at the Hampstead Museum

Members Present:

Rob Morris (Chair), Lyn Rockwell, and John Kelley

Rob introduced Mr. Sam Longbook of the Hampstead Lions Club at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Longbook said that the club is interested in paying for a new sign in front of the town office building and Veterans Park. His initial hand drawn concept is a wooden sign with a programmable LED electronic message board at the bottom. The sign would be held up by two granite posts. Lynn informed Mr. Longbook that the Commission has jurisdiction over where the present sign is, given that it is in the Historic District. Rob told Mr. Longbook that a previous proposal to put an electronic message board in that same location several years ago was voted down by the Commission. John expressed concern that if an electronic message board was installed in the Historic District, then it would be set a precedent for facilities adjacent to the district, such as St. Anne Church and Central School, to install similar electronic message boards. John also mentioned that given social media and companies that provide SMS alerts capabilities for towns and cities, a message board is not as important as they once were. Rob encouraged Mr. Longbook to come back to the Commission with a formal proposal including detailed information about the electronic sign for all the members to review.

Museum

Rob said Jim of *Jim's on Call Painting* has not been able to paint the ceiling in the lobby. Rob asked Jim to complete the painting by the end of the fiscal year. Rob reached out to Jim again.

Meetinghouse

Rob said Bob Moseley of *Moseley Landscaping* of Hampstead finished work on the Meetinghouse parking lot curbing. Hampstead Highway Department delivered loam and spread it between the curbing and the Meetinghouse. The Dept. also had a contractor pavement companies put down asphalt up to the parking lot curbing when they finished another job in town.

Rob said that a windowpane is missing in a window in the tower on the east side. Rob said he will likely replace it himself.

Rob said he has not heard any public announcement about the status of our grant application to repair the Meetinghouse Stage Curtain.

Rob said the Annual Thanksgiving Service was held at 4PM on Sunday, November 19th. It was organized by members of Isaiah 58 charitable organization. Music was provided by the Hampstead Congregational Church (HCC) Choir. The sermon was given by the Rev. Kathy Youzwak of HCC. Selectboard Chari, Laurie Warnock presented firewood to Rev. Youzwak, an annual tradition. Rob gave a brief talk about the history of the Meetinghouse. John also attended the service. The service was followed by cider, coffee, and donuts.

Cobbler Shop

Rob said that Dave Dupouy was going to find a supplier of red cedar shingles to redo the roof of the Cobbler Shop.

Old Business

Rob gave a few updates regarding the 275th Celebration. He said the Committee will have a birthday cake float in Hampstead's *Colonial Christmas* Parade scheduled for 1 PM on Sunday, Dec. 10th. The parade will end at Central School where people can visit Santa. Several few members of the Committee will mark the float. The cake was used previously for the Town of Chester's 300th Anniversary Celebration. Rob said committee members will be getting together this weekend to work on decorating the float.

New Business

John asked if the members were interested in him looking into historic district signs to place on the three parts of the town's historic district. The members were interested, and John will look into.

Minutes of Last Meeting:

The minutes for the November meeting were reviewed at the meeting. Rob made a motion to approve the minutes. Lyn made a second. All voted to approve.

Adjournment:

John made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Rob. All voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

These draft minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.