

## **HAMPSTEAD HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMISSION**

**May 5, 2021**

### **Minutes**

Meeting came to order at 7:38 PM EDT at the Hampstead Meetinghouse

**Members Present:** Rob Morris, Chip Hastings, John Kelley, Joe Guthrie, Joe Passanise, and Lyn Rockwell

### **Old Business**

Commission members attended a demonstration of a proposed electronic illuminated LED information sign to replace the existing sign at the Veterans Memorial Park in front of the Town Office Building which is in the Town's Historic District. The demo was also attended by members of other committees and a Selectmen. The demo was by the NH Sign Company and featured a sign by Daktronics. The demo featured both amber only colored fonts and also the option to have different colored font and backgrounds. The demo was organized by Al Davis.

Members discussed the pros and cons of placing the proposed LED information sign in front of the town office building or at the lawn in front of the Town Highway Garage. Members discussed the appropriateness of an electronic sign in the Historic District, near the busy intersection of Rt. 121 and Emerson Avenue, the usefulness of a sign to inform residents and visitors of town events and weather warnings. Commission members agreed that two votes be taken.

Lyn made a motion and was seconded by Joe P. "To replace the sign at the Veterans Memorial Park in front of the Town House Building with an electronic illuminated version". The vote was unanimous against the motion.

Chip made a motion and was seconded by Joe P. which read "A recommendation to replace the existing town message sign at the Town Highway Garage with an electronic illuminated sign as demonstrated on May 5, 2021 by the NH Sign Company". The vote was 3 in favor and 3 against.

### **New Business**

Rob informed the commission that the Town of Hampstead Selectmen received a letter from a resident worried about the safety of existing metal fence on the grounds of the Town Office Building.

The members agreed that the fence on both sides of the office building be removed soon but be replaced with similar looking fence in the future. Rob will ask John Worthen to remove the fence. Chip recommended that the post fittings and caps be saved so they be used when the fence is replaced in the future. Joe P. said will take photos of

the fence before it is removed. John K. recommended that the trees, that are entangled with the fence, presently be removed as the fence is removed. Chip and Joe will coordinate with John Worthen on the removal of the fence.

## **Museum**

Rob said Jim Chase is almost done with the plastering and painting of the interior of the museum. Both Rob and Joe P. said it looks great. Rob said he paid the painter half of the cost and will pay the other half when he finishes this coming Friday. The total cost is approximately \$5,000.

Rob called the electrician and told him that he can come to install the new light fixtures. The electrician estimates that he will be able to start in about two weeks.

Rob mentioned that there was a leak in the roof during a recent rainstorm. He had Lane Roofing come do an emergency repair.

Rob said that Jim Chase informed him that about the exterior of the museum may have some remaining lead in it. Jim recommended that the exterior be scraped, a lead encapsulating paint be applied followed by a topcoat. Jim estimated it would cost between \$16,000 to \$18,000. Rob talked to Jeff Ayers of Odds and Ends Painting Company, who has done painting for the town before. Jeff recommended that the paint on the exterior of the museum get tested for lead. The members thought that was a good idea and that an independent lead tester company should be contacted to do the test. John K. made a motion which read "To test the exterior paint of Hampstead Museum for lead". It was seconded by Chip. All member voted in favor. Rob will search for a lead testing company. Rob also plans to ask Jeff Pane for an estimate.

## **Meetinghouse**

The sash of one of the windows in the bell tower was replaced by Dave Dupouy. Dave was able to use the glass from the old sash in the new sash. The cost for the new sash was \$1200.

The next topic was the need to do landscaping around the parking lot. Rob said he received a letter from the chair of the Hampstead Garden Club asking about the Commission plans.

Rob said has informally discussed with the scout leader of the Hampstead Boy Scout Troop 33 about the possibility of the troop reconstructing the brick walkway at the Meetinghouse. Joe P. said he will talk to the scout leader about this possibility. It was noted that the bricks that were removed for the repaving of the parking lot are safely stored at the highway garage.

Rob also brought up the topic that was discussed at earlier commission meetings, the installation of a granite curb. He said he might be a good time to install the curb on the

Meetinghouse side of the lot at same time we are doing any landscaping. Rob suggested the members think about and we can discuss again at the next meeting. In the meanwhile, Joe P. said he will get estimates from Swenson Granite Works in Concord, NH for the granite curb. Chip suggested to Joe P. that he ask personnel at Swenson if they know of a small company that might be interested in installing the granite curb.

Finally, Rob mentioned that the shingles of the Meetinghouse needs to be replaced. He said the roof is not leaking yet, but it is in poor shape. During a recent storm, pieces of shingles came off and were found in Meetinghouse Park. Rob recommended that the roof be replaced before winter. Rob had two estimates from Lane Roofing which were in the \$12,000 range. Joe G. noted that given that the price is over \$10,000, the job will have to go out to bid. Members agreed that since it is a historic building, we should consider a non-fiberglass, organic asphalt shingle, if still available. Joe G. suggested that we should use shingles with a 50-year material warranty. Rob said he will get estimates for the next meeting so can review our options.

### **New Business**

None

### **Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Joe G. made motion to approve the minutes for the March and April 2021 meetings and it was second by Chip. All voted to approve the minutes

### **Adjourned:**

Joe P. made motion to adjourn and it was second by Chip. The meeting was adjourned at 8:39 PM EDT.

The May 2021 meeting minutes with corrections were approved at the June 2, 2021 meeting. The corrections are incorporated in this latest version of the minutes.