

# **HAMPSTEAD HISTORIC/HERITAGE COMMISSION**

## **11 Main Street, Hampstead New Hampshire 03841-2033**

---

### **Minutes May 2, 2018**

A meeting of the Historic/Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, May 2, 2018 at the Old Meeting House, Emerson Ave, Hampstead, NH.

**Present:** Rob Morris, Chairman, Carolyn Rockwell, Chip Hastings, Debbie Soucy, and Joe Guthrie, Ex-Officio, Joe Passanise and guests Howie Stedman, Civic Club, and Jon Worthen, Road Agent.

Chairman Morris opened the meeting at 6:30 P.M.

#### **Meeting House**

The group held the monthly meeting at the Old Meeting House to walk the property and get a sense of what could be done with the old parking lot area where the old Police Station used to be. The HDHC has been thinking of repaving the entire area into a parking lot with new striping, etc. Jon Worthen, Road Agent, attended the meeting at the HDHC request. Jon stated he had met with Steve Harms to discuss the matter since he and his crew plow the parking lot and maintain the grounds. A suggestion was made to add a small island close to Emerson Ave entrance in an effort to direct traffic flow into the lot in one direction and out in the opposite direction. This would also force drivers to drive in and then head out without backing out onto Emerson Ave. The island would also be positioned in such a way to easily plow the parking lot. The group agreed that formal professional plans would be needed and that the improvement would likely need to be addressed via a Town Warrant Article. The group thanked Jon Worthen for his time and input.

Howie Stedman, Hampstead Civic Club, was in attendance to present a proposal to the HDHC. H. Stedman stated the Civic Club had the idea of building a public restroom on the site of the old Police Station at no cost to the Town. H. Stedman stated once the restroom was constructed they would gift it to the Town. D. Soucy asked who would be responsible to open and close the building as well as clean the restroom. H. Stedman stated once the Civic Club gifts the building to the Town it would become the Town's responsibility to clean and maintain the building as well as open/close the doors. R. Morris indicated that he had some concerns regarding septic on the site. D. Soucy stated she personally did not care for the idea. Other HDHC members commented that the restroom idea was discussed in the past and there were a number of concerns. The HDHC thanked H. Stedman for his time and stated they would take the idea under advisement.

C. Rockwell discussed the idea of adding some hardscaping to the location such as stadium seating to sit and watch a game or have lunch. C. Hastings explained that adding stadium seating requires a larger area than you might imagine, the bleachers are typically as deep as they are tall, meaning a 8 foot high area of seating would require a minimum of 8 feet of depth to accommodate the backfill needed for the stability of the seating structure.

C. Rockwell also suggested reaching out to the Hampstead Garden Club to see if they would be interested in designing and maintaining new plantings around the Old Meeting House and the "new" parking area (if that's what's decided). C. Hastings also suggested adding granite curbing alongside the parking area that runs adjacent to the Old Meeting House to give the area a more

# HAMPSTEAD HISTORIC/HERITAGE COMMISSION

## 11 Main Street, Hampstead New Hampshire 03841-2033

---

historical look in addition to providing a barrier between the parking lot and the Old Meeting House. C. Rockwell also suggested the possibility of a stonewall behind the ball field area to delineate where the field ends and the parking lot area begins. This would also discourage people from driving on the field.

The HDHC walked the areas in question. The abutting neighbor on Emerson Ave, came out to see what everyone was doing, the group explained that they were throwing around ideas. The neighbor stated she had the property surveyed and indicated where she believed the property line was. C. Hastings stated he was under the impression the property line ran somewhere close to the utility pole located on Emerson Ave. There is also an existing iron fence that serves as a property boundary along the backside of the lot adjacent to the Town Hall parking lot. J. Guthrie asked D. Soucy if she could do some research to determine the property lines for the Old Police Station so the group knows what area is under discussion.

The group moved the meeting inside the Old Meeting House.

R. Morris advised the group that the Window Women of New England are definitely interested in working with the HDHC to run a workshop this fall to help restore windows in the Old Meeting House. R. Morris stated that Reinhild Davis, a member of the Hampstead Historical Society, has indicated that she may be able to secure funding through her work to help sponsor the Window Women event. The HDHC would have a small cost, to be determined, associated with the workshop, to cover lunch, and tools.

### **Meeting House Rentals**

R. Morris explained the process of the Old Meeting House rentals and rules to the newest member of the group, Joe Passanise. R. Morris suggested that Tina Harrington, who is at Town Hall on a full-time basis, be allowed to approve all requests for rental that are paying the fee and agreeing to follow the rules of the rental agreement. It was agreed that if someone requested the fee be waived or the event is unusual.

D. Soucy advised the group that there was a recent issue with a renter not willing to remove the trash from the building, as per part of the agreement. There was a suggestion to request a security deposit to help avoid this issue. R. Morris felt the group could table this issue until such time it becomes a problem and discuss then. The group could always increase the rental fee if it becomes a problem.

**MOTION:** J. Guthrie made a motion to allow Tina Harrington to approve all reasonable requests to rental the Old Meeting House. T. Harrington will refer all unusual requests as well as requests to waive fees to the HDHC for review.

**SECOND:** J. Passanise

**VOTE: 6-0**

There were two rental agreements to review. 5/12/2018 request for a party for Mary Clark, fee paid, approval given to use Old Meeting House. 7/21/2018 Sunset Lake Association, request to waive fee. D. Soucy reminded the group that during last month's meeting the HDHC approved the request of Big Island Pond Corporation to use the Old Meeting House and they paid the fee. The HDHC agreed that Sunset Lake Association could have use of the Old Meeting House as long as they agreed to pay the fee.

# **HAMPSTEAD HISTORIC/HERITAGE COMMISSION**

## **11 Main Street, Hampstead New Hampshire 03841-2033**

---

### **Old Meeting House – Kitchen**

R. Morris presented the idea of removing the old cabinets, countertop, fridge, and stove out of the kitchen area. The group agreed, typically finger foods and cold drinks are offered during the gatherings at the Old Meeting House. The group discourages hot foods and cooking in the building. R. Morris also suggested that the linoleum floor be returned to old pine boards which are more keeping with the period of the building. The group agreed that the restroom on the first floor would need to remain. R. Morris stated he would ask Dave Dubois for a quote on the job. The group agreed that we should search the building for the original door that was in the kitchen area.

### **Museum**

R. Morris stated he had no new information on the light/lighting plan for the Museum. R. Morris stated he would follow up with Dave Dubois on the copper cap installation.

### **Member Comments**

J. Passanise stated that there are four new members on the Hampstead Historical Society. The Society is working on creating a Facebook page.

### **Minutes**

**MOTION:** C. Hastings made a motion to approve the April 4, 2018 minutes.

**SECOND:** C. Rockwell

**VOTE:** 6-0

### **Adjourn**

**MOTION:** R. Morris made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 P.M.

**SECOND:** J. Guthrie

**VOTE:** 6-0

Minutes prepared by Debbie Soucy, Secretary