

## **Hampstead Historic District/Heritage Commission**

**August 7, 2019**

A meeting of the Hampstead Historic District/Heritage Commission was held on Wednesday, August 7, 2019 at the Hampstead Historic Museum, 67 Main Street, Hampstead, NH

**Present:** Rob Morris, Joe Guthrie, Ex-Officio, John Kelley, Carolyn Rockwell, and Joe Passanise

Rob Morris opened the meeting at 7:05 PM EDT.

### **Old Business**

Rob Morris started the meeting with, Andrew Chisholm of West Hampstead a guest from last months' meeting. He attended the July meeting to inform the commission about a historic pear tree that sits partially on his land. It is threatened due to a proposed subdivision. Rob asked Mr. Chisholm to give us an update on the pear tree. He reported at the Wednesday night meeting, a Forester and associates from The UNH Cooperative Extension came to his farm to examine the tree, which sits directly on the borderline of his property and the land up for subdivision plan. The forester stated that the tree likely dates back to 1843 and is based on a graft from the famous John Endicott Pear tree in Danvers, MA. The pear tree in Danvers, is the oldest living cultivated fruit tree in North America. The UNH forester measured the West Hampstead tree to have a circumference of 86" and estimated height of 57 ft. Mr. Chisholm expects to receive a full report on the tree from the UNH forester in the coming weeks. Mr. Chisholm answered a few questions from commission members. Rob thanked Mr. Chisholm for the update. Rob said that the commission will review the subdivision plans once they are submitted to the planning board to determine of impact of the subdivision on the tree and provide the board and Selectmen with commission's recommendation.

### **Museum**

Museum Curator, Joe Passanise provided a brief update on the project to replace the interior lights in museum with more efficient, yet period aesthetic ones. He said he has three new electricians coming on Aug. 9, 14, and 15th to the museum to discuss and estimate the cost of the required electrical work. Once that is done, the second phase of the renovation to the museum will include wall repair and paint.

Rob and Joe P. mentioned that the Hampstead Historical Society is looking at different options to add more security monitoring equipment in the museum. Joe Passanise has identified a fairly low-cost solution for a nine camera, high resolution color, day – night vision DVR system. It can record and store large duration archived video while sending motion images to smart phones. This discussion began in light of the recent break-ins at the Sandown Museum. They will keep the commission informed.

## **Meetinghouse**

Rob recently met with Contractor Dave Dupouy to go over the ideas for renovating the kitchen in the Meetinghouse. The ideas included removing the dropped ceiling, refrigerator, and stove; replacing the sink with a period appropriate soapstone sink; replacing the laminate counter with a wooden counter; replacing the kitchen door, and removing the linoleum flooring tiles. Dave told Rob that he can start next week. Member Lynn Rockwell, suggested, a person who might be willing to donate a soapstone sink to the commission. Rob said he plans to ask the Town Road Agent if he and his crew could help Dave remove the old kitchen equipment. Joe Guthrie suggested that Rob check to make sure there are no scheduled events planned for the meetinghouse in the coming month during the construction.

Rob suggested that the commission members think about whether they would like to propose a smaller scale and less expensive project to improve the condition of the meetinghouse parking lot for next year's town budget. Perhaps to focus on replacing the unsightly gravel and broken pavement, as well as more permanent curb protection for the parking spaces extremely close to the bell tower portion of the meetinghouse. All members felt that would be best.

## **New Business**

Two residents have informally expressed to Rob interest in possibly becoming a member of the commission. Rob will check the By-Laws to double check on the maximum number of commission members.

## **Approval of Previous Minutes**

No minutes were taken at the July meeting so no minutes could be approved.

## **Adjourn**

John Kelley made a motion to adjourn at **7:49 PM** EDT with five members in attendance. It was seconded by Joe Passanise and passed.

Prepared by Joe Passanise and John Kelley