

Heath Historical Commission

Sawyer Hall, September 13th, 2010

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Absent: Eric Grinnell, Jan Carr

1. Review and approval of the Minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting

Following a motion to approve by Bill Lattrell, the minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Community Center storage shed proposal

Eileen Tougas described the need for a shed for the community center, and explained that it is needed to store handicap equipment for the town nurse, emergency supplies and wooden chairs. At present these items are stored on the stage. A new shed would have the dimensions of 12'x20'. This issue will be voted on at a special town meeting. Margaret expressed appreciation that Eileen Tougas had requested the view of the HHC.

The Committee discussed guidelines for a shed within an historic district and learned from Margaret Freeman that the federal designation of historic district does not come with any guidelines, but the fact that it is in an historic district can delay actions.

The committee discussed location, and the proposed site of 5-6' away from the building in the left side, at the back lined up with the Community Center. The HHC expressed approval for the location. Bill Lattrell made a motion, Carol-Anne Eldridge seconded, with the conclusion being that the HHC approved location and size.

Eileen discussed the proposed vinyl siding for the shed. The issue was discussed at length, and the Committee eventually noted opposition to vinyl siding due to aesthetic and environment concerns. Pegge Howland said that there are many options, and offered to share documentation from other companies selling sheds.

A motion was put forward by Bill Lattrell, seconded by Nina Marshall for the following statement: "The Heath Historical Commission makes a recommendation to town meeting that the size and location of the shed be approved but that we strongly recommend consideration of wood siding instead of vinyl siding."

Eileen Tougas thanked the Commission for their consideration.

3. DIY History Workshop project proposal

The Committee reviewed a proposal put forward by Chris Luis-Schultze. Bill Lattrell stated that he had reviewed the proposal and found that it has very good elements, but is very ambitious. Discussion evolved into discourse about maps and what is available, and how to get them. Margaret Freeman stated that much work needs to be done (especially with maps) before we even have any workshops. Bill discussed dividing the town up into neighborhoods, but that this might cause some difficulty as some areas have sparse population.

Margaret Freeman expressed concern that the Committee needs to move ahead with some concrete actions, and Bill Lattrell responded by suggesting that we decide where the “neighborhoods” are, noting that the Benson Place could be a good starting point because Dave Gott is already pursuing designation for the area.

To move forward, it was decided that the next HHC meeting should be a working meeting. Bill Lattrell will look at USGS maps; Nina Marshall will ask Jan Carr to share the large land map of the town that she has prepared; Margaret Freeman will ask Eric Grinnell about any old maps that he might have.

The Committee then discussed stone walls and numerous instances of theft of stones that have been noted around the town. It was decided to bring the issue to the attention of the town. Margaret Freeman stated that she would go to the Select Board, noting the Commission’s concern about the destruction of the town’s stone walls.

4. Web page

Margaret Freeman informed the group that Janson McNay of 15 Swamp Road apparently has said that he would be able to help the town, and therefore she plans to ask him for assistance in putting up a webpage for the HHC.

5. Get well wishes

The Commission expressed concern and well wishes for both Eric Grinnell and Calvin Carr.

6. Signs for the historic district

The Commission discussed very briefly that there is a desire to put up signs indicating the presence of the town’s historic district. Commission members agreed but no action was decided.

7. Next meeting

The next meeting was proposed for December 20, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Nina Marshall