

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2019

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting at Council Chambers, 41 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, July 11, 2019.

Attendees: Present at the meeting were Chair Richard Jaques, Vice-Chair Jim Spain, Councilor Allan Herschlag, Members Carol Durgy Brooks, Bryant Tolles, Rich Woodfin, Bob Johnson, and Alternate Mike Dunn

Absent: Alternate Sarah Galligan

Staff: Heather Shank, City Planner
Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Administrative Specialist

1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates

Chairman Jaques called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brooks moved to approve the minutes of May 7, 2019. Mr. Spain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Spain moved to approve the minutes of June 6, 2019, as amended. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed 7/01. Mr. Woodfin abstained, as he was not at the meeting.

3. New Business

a. Sewall's Falls MoU – no new information to report

b. East Concord Marker

Pictures were presented of the proposed sign and of the granite marker. Ms. Shank stated that the Garden Club will be presenting the proposal to City Council in August. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the purview of the Heritage Commission relative to this project. Ms. Shank explained that this is a donation from a community group and the purpose of the meetings between the Garden Club and members of the former Exit 16 landscape committee was to come to an agreement on the design. She noted that it appeared that Mr. Johnson was not in favor of the design though other members of the group seemed to come to a consensus on the design. Mr. Johnson commented that the size was too small and stated that he was not in favor of the garden club's choice. He wants to have another meeting.

Councilor Herschlag suggested having City Council refer the item back to the Commission for comments. Mr. Johnson stated that he is not comfortable with sending a letter to Council and requesting it come back without having Council informed of the details. He requested that the item remain on the agenda for next month.

c. Abbott Village – no new information to report

4. Demolition Review Committee Report – Bob Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that a demolition application was received from Steve Duprey for 20½ South Main Street. A public hearing was held on July 1, 2019. Approximately 30 persons were in attendance. Five or six people spoke and several spoke twice specific to the continuing loss of historic buildings in the City and the potential loss of this building. He commented that it was nice to see a good turnout. Mr. Duprey is amenable to discussing alternatives. Mr. Duprey has been investigating options to move the building to another area.

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Mr. Johnson stated that the City is losing an era on Main Street; these buildings have such historical and architectural values. Ms. Brooks suggested that a special meeting be held to discuss the historic and architectural values of South Main Street with a mission to raise awareness and discuss creating additional historic districts.

Councilor Herschlag explained that the applicant would like to bury the utilities. He suggested the Heritage Commission ask for assistance from the City and not contribute until there is an alternative to the house; why should the City participate financially to take down a structure that has significance to the area. He asked if the Commission could present a letter to Council that Council take that opinion. Mr. Jaques replied that would not be a part of the Commission's purview. Ms. Shank commented that it is an issue for City Council.

5. Heritage Sign Program – Carol Brooks

Ms. Brooks stated that there is nothing new to report.

Ms. Brooks asked about the status of the Commission's website. She would like to see some of the previously discussed changes implemented to make it easier to find Heritage Sign program information. She does not feel that it is user friendly and easily accessed. She will forward existing sign packets again if necessary.

6. Old Business

a. Demolition Delay Ordinance

Work in progress.

b. Historic Photo Repository – Rich Woodfin

Mr. Woodfin stated that he has uploaded additional photos. He also paid for the subscription. Staff noted that he should submit documentation for reimbursement.

c. Monuments & Granite Markers – Jim Spain

Mr. Spain stated that he is continuing with this ongoing project. A discussion was held regarding obtaining new markers. Ms. Brooks suggested that the Commission use the sign program and perhaps see if the budget could support one sign per year and/or if the Commission could pursue sponsors for donations for new monuments or replacements. Ms. Shank stated that the Commission could ask for additional funding in the budget for next year or repurpose existing funds for markers.

7. Any other business to come before the Commission

Next meeting is August 1, 2019.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Ms. Brooks motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Spain seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Fellows-Weaver
Administrative Specialist