

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
May 2, 2024

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in Council Chambers at 37 Green St, on Thursday, May 2, 2024.

Members: Althea Barton, Carol Durgy Brooks, Michael Dunn, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Vice-Chair Jim Spain, Dr. Bryant Tolles, Jr.

Absent: Chair Richard Jaques

Guests: Sarah Mathieu, Jim Millikan

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner, Acting City Planner
Martha Drukker, Associate Engineer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Jim Spain at 4:30 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve March 7, 2024 meeting minutes

Michael Dunn moved, seconded by Carol Durgy Brooks, to accept the March 7, 2024 minutes as written. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Airport Terminal

Martha Drukker, staff associate engineer, reviewed the materials contained in the packet. Ms. Drukker noted a grant application for \$2.5 million is due by August 1, 2024, to help subsidize the construction of the new 5,500-square-foot airport terminal. Ms. Drukker noted the existing terminal building will be demolished after the new building is completed and items have been moved from the old to the new building.

Discussion took place amongst the members and Ms. Drukker regarding the demolition and new construction. It was noted that the entire airport is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, with hangar 1 and hangar 2 being listed individually. Members wondered if the old terminal could be retained. Ms. Drukker stated retention of the old terminal is not possible due to the proposed building layout and parking, as well as the old terminal not being habitable due to lead paint, asbestos, and mold, lack of ADA-compliance, and costly maintenance and upkeep. It was determined that Michael Dunn would arrange a time to meet Ms. Drukker at the old airport terminal to take photos of the building.

Members discussed the possibility of a large display case or wall, either external or internal, to display the history of the old terminal. Ms. Drukker noted that would need to be discussed with administration. Jennifer Kretovic suggested that a letter from Heritage Commission to City Council regarding the matter would be an appropriate course of action.

Jennifer Kretovic moved, seconded by Carol Durgy Brooks, to have the Heritage Commission send a letter to City Council advising of Heritage Commission's interest in having an historic interpretive panel displaying the history of the airport in or near the new terminal building when the building is constructed. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Eagle Square

Discussion took place amongst the group about the request of interest for the proposed new antenna and screening being installed on the historic Eagle Hotel and whether the addition of the antenna and screening will impact the historic property.

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Althea Barton moved, seconded by Carol Durgy Brooks, to officially comment on the configuration as shown that depicts the rectangle on top of the square and request that the rectangle be configured on the same roof level with the square so that the base would be on the roof and not elevated on the utility box so that the antenna enclosure is not visible from the west side of N Main St looking east, pursuant to Section 106 addressing incompatible elements.

5. 13 Concord Way

A brief discussion amongst the members led to the conclusion that the new cell tower at 13 Concord Wy has no impact to historic properties.

6. Property Recognition Program

The group determined that Property Recognition would be administered as a program, rather than a committee, subcommittee, or ad hoc committee, as an ongoing agenda item for Heritage Commission meetings.

Jennifer Kretovic noted that Lynn Woodard was sent a communication about a year regarding his 1767 house that he renovated. Ms. Kretovic indicated she would like to invite Mr. Woodard to present photos and renovation information at an upcoming Heritage Commission meeting to recognize him for all the work he had done to the building.

Jim Millikan, a guest, mentioned a house on Eastman St that is supposed to be the oldest house in Concord.

7. Gas Holder Building

No updates.

8. Website

Michael Dunn stated that he found additional publications with photos that he is going to add to the website.

9. Monuments and Markers

Discussion took place about the status of the Elizabeth Gurley Flynn sign, noting that it would be unlikely for the city replace a sign that was removed by the state. This prompted discussion of starting a monument program for the city, noting that establishment of a formal program needs to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

10. CSX Tower

The group discussed the latest status of the tower, noting that the tower still remains with no movements being made towards demolition. It was noted that the nearly identical tower in Manchester was demolished, giving rise to the Commission's fears of imminent demolition of Concord's tower. Jim Spain stated that he will call Peter Dearness for an update.

11. Non-agenda item – letter update

Althea Barton asked for an update on the letter that Rick Jaques and Jennifer Kretovic were going to write to City Council requesting that the Heritage Commission be notified in a timely manner of city demolitions.

12. Non-agenda item – Norris House

It was noted that the house is scheduled for demolition on May 13, 2024. Sarah Mathieu, a guest, spoke

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on the work she had done to get the house moved rather than demolished, concluding that she had been unsuccessful. The Commission members thanked Ms. Mathieu for her efforts

13. Demolition Review Committee

No new demolition permit applications and no updates.

14. Heritage Sign Program

Carol Durgy Brooks provided an overview of the history of the program. Discussion took place amongst the members regarding the proper forum for consideration the heritage sign applications.

Carol Durgy Brooks moved, seconded by Jennifer Kretovic, to establish the Heritage Sign Program Review Committee with a minimum of two members, maximum of three members, with the chair of the committee taking minutes and remitting to the Planning Division for posting within four business days of the meeting, and members appointed as Dr. Tolles and Carol Durgy Brooks. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

15. Planning Board Update

There was brief discussion on a possible ordinance amendment regarding historic significance of properties and the review process. No motions were made or actions were taken.

16. Other Business

Jennifer Kretovic noted that Jim Millikan was present at her request to talk about Magnificent 10, but he had to leave.

Jennifer Kretovic reminded the group about the Frederick Douglass reading on June 29, 2024, at noon.

17. Jim Spain moved, seconded by Jennifer Kretovic, to adjourn at approximately 6:33 p.m. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
AnneMarie Skinner
Acting City Planner