

**HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**December 4, 2025**

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in Council Chambers at 37 Green St, on Thursday, December 4, 2025.

Members: Carol Durgy Brooks, Chair Richard Jaques, Vice-Chair Jim Spain, and Dr. Bryant Tolles, Jr.

Absent: Althea Barton, Michael Dunn, and Councilor Jennifer Kretovic

Staff: Matt Walsh, Deputy City Manager – Community Development  
Krista Tremblay, Administrative Technician III

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jaques at 4:30 p.m.

2. Minutes – Approve Heritage Commission meeting minutes from November 6, 2025

Vice-Chair Spain moved, seconded by Dr. Tolles, Jr., to accept the Heritage Commission minutes from November 6, 2025, with an amendment to one sentence in agenda item six first paragraph. All in favor.

3. New Business

None.

4. Old/Continuing Business

a. Property Recognition

There is nothing to report on this agenda item.

b. Monuments and Granite Markers – continued discussion regarding tree marker for historic tree in Historic District

Vice-Chair Spain has nothing new to report. Vice-Chair Spain has not had a chance to go to Perry monuments. They will draw a granite square to recognize the tree in front of the Kimball Jenkins.

Chair Jaques asked for the linked text of continued discussion deleted from future meeting agendas.

Discussion ensued about recent press reports concerning requests from certain members of the public to the Town of Boscawen asking that the Hannah Dustin monument be removed. Member Durgy Brooks asked if there are any monuments or markers in Concord that represent contributions of Indigenous people.

Vice-Chair Spain stated we do not there is the Bradley Massacre monument in front of Concord Hospital.

Chair Jaques noted there is a landmark at Sugar Ball Bluff.

Vice-Chair Spain noted at NHTI there is Sewall Falls.

Chair Jaques provided a brief summary about Indigenous Peoples setting in Penacook. He reported there were village of Indians that would congregate around any fort that was built.

Vice-Chair Spain discussed conflicts between various tribes of native peoples in the area, as well as various alliances between certain tribes of native peoples and colonists.

Mr. Walsh stated the new park in Penacook on Canal Street will have four signs, one of which will discuss Indigenous peoples in Penacook, including their reliance on the Contoocook and Merrimack Rivers. Penacook. Mr. Walsh noted the new Canal Street park includes benches which are shaped like canoes as an homage to Native Americans. Mr. Walsh asked if the Commission has any specific suggestions regarding Native American history which should be included on the forthcoming sign.

c. Old Penacook Library deed restriction per City Resolution #9518

Mr. Walsh stated they continue to market the property and entertain offers. There will be deed restrictions to protect the property in accordance with Resolution #9518. Mr. Walsh stated there is nothing new to report.

Chair Jaques asked to keep this on the agenda.

d. Review Section VIII Historic Resources of the Master Plan 2030

- Architectural surveys, pdf pages 11 (bottom) and 12
- Exhibit VIII-1 Historic Resources, pdf page 19

Chair Jaques looked at maps of historic and potentially historic resources included in this Chapter. He noted that the CSX Northern Rail line which the City is working to acquire for the Merrimack River Greenway Trail is noted as a potential historic resource.

Mr. Walsh noted it is listed as a potentially eligible historic resource on the map. Mr. Walsh provided a brief update regarding the City's efforts to acquire said rail line. He noted that a Purchase and Sales Agreement has been executed with CSX to acquire that portion of the Northern line from Horseshoe Pond Lane to the Contoocook River. The State of New Hampshire recently waived its right of first refusal for the purchase. As such, Mr. Walsh anticipates that the City will take ownership of the property by the end of February 2026. Once acquired, the City will proceed with development of the Merrimack River Greenway Trail; the first phase of which on this section will be located between the Contoocook River and Sewalls Falls Road. As the project moves forward, there might be opportunities to include signage discussing the history of the Northern Railroad.

Chair Jaques also noted #37 on the historic resources map, which was the former Penacook

Mill / Allied Leather Tannery site. It was noted that East Street was renamed to Canal Street after the Historic Resources Chapter of the 2030 Master Plan was adopted in 2008. .

Chair Jaques noted that the Penacook Mill was demolished and inquired why this site was included on the map of potential historic resources.

Mr. Walsh reported that the former Penacook Mill was demolished in 2008 after the adoption of the 2030 Master Plan. He noted that the City commissioned a national register historic inventory of the property in 2004, which is on file in the Concord Room at the Concord Public Library as well as the NH Department of Historic Resources. It was noted that the former Penacook Mill was historically significant because of its unique granite ashlar construction and role in the industrialization of Penacook Village as a textile facility and later largest leather tannery in New Hampshire.

e. 2026 Calendar dates

On a motion made by Chair Jaques, seconded by Vice-Chair Spain, the Committee voted to approved the 2026 calendar dates. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Heritage Sign Program Review Committee update

Member Durgy Brooks stated there are no new sign applications. The December meeting was cancelled. There is a January meeting date. If application comes in 10 business days before the meeting then the meeting will not be held.

6. Planning Board

Mr. Walsh stated the Phenix Hall project is going through the process. It was noted that the Heritage Commission previously reviewed and approved the demolition of the E&P Hotel as part of the Phenix Hall Project in anticipation of a potential application for RSA 79-E Community Revitalization Tax Relief incentives to support the project.

7. City Council

Mr. Walsh stated the new City Council will take office in January. The mayor will appoint the City Council representative to the Heritage Commission.

8. Other Business

None.

**Adjournment**

Member Durgy Brooks moved, seconded by Member Tolles Jr., to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 p.m. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Krista Tremblay*

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Administrative Technician III