

HERITAGE COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
November 7, 2024

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting in Council Chambers at 37 Green St, on Thursday, November 7, 2024.

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

Absent: Chair Richard Jaques

Staff: AnneMarie Skinner, City Planner
Krista Tremblay, Administrative Specialist II

1. Call to Order

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

2. Minutes – Approve meeting minutes of October 3, 2024

Ms. Durgy Brooks moved, seconded by Dr. Tolles, Jr., to accept the minutes from October 3, 2024, as written. All in favor. Motion passed.

3. New Business

a. Review and approve 2025 meeting schedule

Ms. Skinner presented the Heritage Commission's 2025 schedule for review and approval.

The Commission decided to move the July 2025 meeting to July 10, 2025, and the January 2026 meeting to January 8, 2026, due to the first Thursday of 2026 being January 1st.

Ms. Durgy Brooks made a motion to accept the dates as amended. Mr. Dunn seconded. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Old/Continuing Business

a. Property Recognition

Ms. Barton commended Chair Jaques for the documentation preparation. Ms. Barton further stated that Chair Jaques was going to make the changes to the document as discussed at last month's meeting and present to the group to finalize.

Mr. Spain suggested having a special meeting on a different day since there is so much to discuss in a short amount of time.

Ms. Barton stated there are still a lot of details that need to be addressed.

Mr. Spain suggested waiting until Chair Jaques was present to schedule a special meeting.

Ms. Skinner stated the special meeting will need to be posted and someone will need to take minutes for the meeting.

b. Airport Terminal

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Councilor Kretovic stated there was an agenda item last month for City Council to accept the grant.

c. Monuments and Granite Markers

Mr. Spain has nothing to report on this agenda item.

d. CSX Tower

Mr. Spain noted that the CSX tower recently made the “one of the seven to save” list.

Ms. Barton stated that, while she does not have an official report, she read in news from the Preservation Alliance that the CSX tower was nominated by railroad fans for the seven to save list. Ms. Barton explained the list is compiled by the Preservation Alliance to save properties in danger that would benefit from being highlighted. The CSX tower was accepted as one of the seven to save this year. A letter was sent to CSX to notify of the announcement of the seven to save.

e. Review of revised website paragraph under Concord’s history

Ms. Barton stated Councilor Kretovic started a draft and gave to Ms. Barton to finalize. Ms. Barton remembered the 2030 master plan has the history of Concord. Ms. Barton wants to make sure the full story of Concord is represented and will keep working on the paragraph.

f. Old Penacook Library deed restriction discussion

Councilor Kretovic asked if the property has been listed?

Ms. Skinner stated there has been a discussion with a group to use for housing, but she has no other information at this time, including not knowing if the property has been listed.

Ms. Barton noted that the site is a small lot, and stated the Heritage Commission could ask to hold an easement. Ms. Barton came up with language from other examples of deed restrictions from other parts of the state and presented the examples to the Commission. Ms. Barton asked the Commission if there is anything they want to recommend to City Council about the library and offer any other deed restriction language other than what the City is proposing?

Councilor Kretovic stated the Heritage Commission wants to preserve the historic character to the library building because it contributes as a whole to the village.

Ms. Barton pointed out the language is only dealing with the exterior and not the interior. Ms. Barton is using this as a starting point for historic conservation as to what Heritage Commission would like to have the City include in the deed restriction language.

Mr. Spain noted the way it is written is a good start.

Councilor Kretovic asked if Mr. Walsh should read and review?

Ms. Skinner stated the Heritage Commission needs to have her forward to Mr. Walsh for review.

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Mr. Spain asked for this item to be on the agenda next month.

5. Demolition Review Committee update

Mr. Spain has nothing to report on this agenda item.

6. Heritage Sign Review Committee update

Ms. Durgy Brooks stated the Heritage Sign Review Committee meeting was canceled due to quorum issues and reschedule to December 4, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

7. Planning Board

Ms. Skinner noted for the November 20, 2024 Planning Board agenda there is a lot line adjustment, condo plat, and site plan with a conditional use permit, as well as the public hearing for possible amendments to the adopted ordinance of the height and obstruction of the Capitol Dome.

8. City Council

Councilor Kretovic stated the Mayor of Concord appointed a committee for the 300th anniversary in 2026. There are elements of the state capital to play a role in the celebration of the 250 as the state capital. The 300th anniversary is the blessing of the King of England to separate from the State of Massachusetts. Councilor Kretovic stated this needs to be a conversation about American melting pot beliefs.

Mr. Spain noted the name changed from Rumford to Concord after the separation from the King of England.

Councilor Kretovic stated there was a report from the airport that another environmental assessment needs to be conducted as there are historic elements that need to be taken into consideration.

9. Other Business

None.

Adjournment

Ms. Durgy Brooks moved, seconded by Councilor Kretovic, to adjourn the meeting at 5:37 p.m. All in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Krista Tremblay

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Administrative Specialist II