

Heritage Commission
Meeting with NH Preservation Alliance - May 16, 2024

The Freedom Heritage Commission met with Andrew Cushing with the NH Preservation Alliance and Jason Earle on Thursday, May 16, 2024, at 3:00pm. Heritage Commission members who were present were Brandy Buttrick, Karrie Buttrick, Mark McKinley, Sue Hoople and Alan Fall.

Andrew and Jason toured both the Town Office Building and the Masonic Building with a focus on the rehabilitation of both buildings.

Andrew recommended the following:

- The Town applies for a Preservation Planning Grant through LCIP that could help cover the cost of an architect, preservation consultant, engineer with timber frame experience and preservation contractor.
- Beth Miller at North Country Architect, and if she is available, her team could serve as both architect and preservation consultant.
- Annette Dey, P.E., who has timber frame experience and who did the engineering for Grafton's Meetinghouse after the fire and the Stark Union Church.
- Jason Earle with his experience restoring and rehabilitating historic buildings, for estimates and construction advice.

The Heritage Commission on behalf of the Town, plans to submit a letter of intent for a Preservation Planning Grant through LCHIP for a Historic Structures Report for both the Town Office and the Masonic Buildings under a combined LCHIP grant application. The proposed estimate was \$50,000, with a grant request of \$25,000. If awarded, the planning grant puts the town under no obligations.

Andrew Cushing believes having this study done would hopefully accomplish several things:

- prioritize the historic fabric of the hill.
- provide a roadmap for rehabilitation of both buildings.
- enable the town to pursue LCHIP and Moose Plate funding for bricks and mortar work (exterior envelope, window repair, interior renovations, etc.).

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.