

FREEDOM HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes

April 11, 2024

Present: Brandy Buttrick (Vice-Chair), Karrie Buttrick (Secretary), Sue Hoople (M), Mark McKinley (M), Alan Fall (BOS Rep). Absent: Scott Cunningham (A).

A quorum was established.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. The minutes of January 24, 2024 meeting were reviewed. Mark made a motion to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Brandy. All were in favor.

Agenda:

Discuss board member positions:

Since our last meeting, Alan was elected as a Selectman and accepted the position as Select Board Representative for the Heritage Commission. As Select Board Rep, Alan can no longer be Chair. The commission was asked if there was a member who would be interested at this time to be Chair. Brandy stated that his position as Historical Society Co-Chair and the work that they are currently doing, prevents him from accepting the position. Karrie agreed to continue as Secretary. Mark and Sue were not interested in accepting the position of Chair. It was discussed and agreed for the time being that at each future meeting a member would be appointed to chair that meeting until the chair position is filled.

Discuss recruiting new members:

The commission currently has four members and one alternate. The commission can have six members appointed with staggered, three-year terms and 5 alternates with staggered three-year term. The commission asked each member if they could think of someone who might be interested in joining the commission. Sue was going to check with a few people. The consensus was that the Historical Society currently has many of the candidates proposed so the commission might need to advertise for members, with the Freedom Bulletin Board being a possibility. Alan reminded the commission that any candidate would need to be approved and appointed by the Select Board. The commission also discuss current members whose terms are due to expire in the 2024. Karrie is aware that her and Sue's appointments are due this year and would get with Alan to provide a list of those members whose term is set to expire this year.

Discuss the results of Town Meeting for the Town Offices:

At Town Meeting on March 16, 2024, Article 7, to renovate the existing Town Office building was defeated by a slim margin. Article 8, the vote to build a new Town Office building on Route 153 was soundly defeated. After the vote, Les Babb indicated that the results gave the Selectmen a clear direction as to how to proceed. In the coming year, the Selectmen will interview architects and get bids for developing final plans for the renovation. They would also work out details and costs for housing staff in temporary workspace while the renovation takes place. The goal is to have detailed plans and actual costs on the renovation of Town Office Building which would be presented at next year's Town Meeting. Alan informed the commission that he had agreed to lead the project for costing out the renovations to the Town Office Building. His first goal is to find an architect for the project. He has reached out to Bergeron Technical Services but has yet to receive a reply. Alan mentioned that he also reached out to Mike Richmond with

Custom Concepts who has done work for the Town in the past. Alan stated that normally the Town would look for at least three firms to bid. Karrie asked if the architectural firm provided by Andrew Cushing with the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, would be asked to bid. Alan asked if the commission could contact Andrew and ask him what would be necessary if trying to preserve the historical features of the schoolhouse. Would the cost to retain features, outweigh a practical and affordable alternate cost. Karrie said that she would check with Andrew. Alan mentioned that the Selectmen have been discussing the project and if they should consider including repairs to the Masonic Building as part of the project. Mark reminded Alan that repairs to the Masonic building was not discussed at Town Meeting and it might require approval from the Town to include the cost. Alan said that this was a good point, and he would raise this at the next meeting of the Select Board. Alan stated that the Selectmen will need to proceed quickly on this project since they would need numbers by November in order to ensure that the issue would be considered in warrant article for 2025. Mark asked if there had been any additional discussion on where the staff would be housed during the renovation. Alan replied that they are looking at several options. Alan mentioned that discussion of the renovation project would be on the Select Board Agenda for Monday, April 22, 2024.

Update on Snow Roller:

Brandy reported that locating cured hardwood for the frame of the snow roller is proving difficult. As soon as possible this Spring, the snow roller need to be rolled into the shed to disassemble it and begin restoration. Brandy thanked Mark for getting the door to snow roller back on the track. Brandy believes that it would be helpful to get crushed stones placed on the shed's floor since the dirt floor is very uneven. He was going to check with Brooks for an estimated cost.

Research Projects:

The commission discussed the need to revisit which houses have been inventoried in the Village. When bringing on new members, the research projects would be a good start point to understand the purpose of the Heritage Commission. Karrie also thanked Sue for taking her to the Registry of Deeds Office and showing her how to utilize the files when researching deed information.

Other Business:

There was no additional business. Meeting adjourned at 6:51pm.