

FREEDOM HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes – Final November 20, 2024

Present: Brandy Buttrick (Vice-Chair), Karrie Buttrick (Secretary), Mark McKinley (M), Sue Hoople (M) and Alan Fall (BOS Rep). A quorum was established. Also present were Jason Earle, a Preservation Construction Consultant, and Arlene Knight, who has submitted her volunteer application to join the Heritage Commission.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm at the Town Hall. The minutes of July 25, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Brandy made a motion to accept the minutes, and it was seconded by Alan. All were in favor. Note: There was no meeting in September due to a lack of quorum.

Agenda:

Update on the Masonic Hall Remediation:

Karrie reminded the commission members that at our last meeting in July, Placework was being considered as the architectural firm for the Town Offices Renovation Project and for the Masonic Hall Remediation. Karrie asked Alan for an update. Alan explained that Placework's professional fees were very high and not realistic. A decision was made by the Selectboard to look for a second quote. Alan contacted Annette Dey, a structural engineer who did the structural remediation work on the Grafton Meeting House Project. Alan and Jason met Annette in September and toured the Masonic Hall. Based on her experience and proposed cost, it was decided by the Selectboard to hire Annette for the remediation project. The design work on the remediation is almost complete. Alan thanked Jason for coming back a second time to get the wood samples from the bents requested by Annette. Alan also explains that Beth Miller with North Country Architect has been hired to do the Historic Building Assessment (HBA) on the Masonic Hall. Alan, Jason, Brandy and Karrie met Beth in early November and toured the Masonic Hall. Brandy reminded the commission members that the Town received a planning grant from the NH Preservation Alliance (NHPA) in the amount of \$4,500 which will be used to cover the cost of the Historic Building Assessment (HBA) on the Masonic Hall. Mark asked Alan if he knew when the assessment on the Masonic Hall would be completed. Alan stated that it would be nice if the report could be done before the Town Meeting in March 2025 but wasn't sure if it could be at this time. Jason explained the importance of this report and how it can help with the future request of LCHIP funding. The committee discussed the possibility of meetings before the Town Meeting to present the needed remediation work and future use of the Masonic Hall. Alan asked Brandy and Karrie if they could look into the cost of portable office space in preparation for these meetings.

Update on the Town Offices Renovation Project:

Alan stated that Beth Miller was also hired to do the design work on the Town Office building. Design work should start early next year with a proposed plan for 2026.

Update on the LCHIP Grant Requests:

Karrie gave an update. As stated earlier, the Town did receive a planning grant from the NH Preservation Alliance in the amount of \$4,500 which will be used to cover the cost of the Historic Building Assessment (HBA) on the Masonic Hall. We are still waiting to hear from LCHIP about the planning grant for the Town Office Building. Jason mentioned that volunteer time on these projects might count towards the town match. We should be tracking our volunteer hours on these projects. This is something that should be clarified with LCHIP on

planning grants. A decision from LCHIP is expected soon. Karrie recognized and thanked Jason and Andrew Cushing for their support with both grant requests. They made us aware of the grants, walked us through the process and continue to support our work to preserve and protect our historical buildings in Town.

Update on Snow Roller:

Brandy asked Alan if he knew when Scott Brooks might have the time to level the floor in the Snow Roller shed. Alan hopes that Scott can find the time next week. Alan asked Brandy to give Scott a call. Brandy asked Alan if he heard from Jason Ferry on the cutting of the snow roller frame. Brandy mentioned that the Historical Society received donations towards the snow roller in memory of Scott Cunningham. There is money available to pay Jason Ferry. Alan believes that Jason Ferry is busy and might not have the time right now. Brandy asked if there is another person that can do the work. Alan replied that it would need to be a person with a portable mill. Once the frame is milled, Alan would like the pieces to be put in the shed and not out in the elements. Brandy mentioned that once the floor is done, we could get the slats from the Cunningham property moved into the shed.

New Members:

Karrie recognized Arlene for her interest in joining the Heritage Commission. Karrie also mentioned that Sarah Tabor has provided her volunteer form to join the Heritage Commission. Both Arlene and Sarah will need to be approved and appointed the Selectboard. Karrie expressed her belief that with the help of Sue, the commission can restart the building inventory projects with the addition of our new members. A visit to the Registry of Deeds with Sue is planned for early next year.

Other Business:

Karrie mentioned that Jason provided a presentation on behalf of the Heritage Commission at the November Freedom Community Club Dinner. The presentation was called *Preservation Approach to the Dynamic Use and Stewardship of Historic Buildings*. It was well received by those attending. Karrie thanked Jason for his continued support.

The Commission members also discussed the need to update the Heritage Commission page on the Town's website. Karrie said she would follow up with Stacy.

The meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Next meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 6:00pm.