

HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMISSION

Meeting July 9, 2014

Bartley House. 4pm

Present: Bonnie Parenteau; Nancy Kopec; Peter Griffin; Mary Dinsmore; Carol Pynn; Margaret Case; Bette Dunne; Carl Dubay

The meeting was opened at 4:05 pm

The May minutes were reviewed. Peter made a motion to accept the May minutes. Nancy seconded the motion. Vote: 4:0 in favor

A welcome was expressed to the new Selectman liaison, Joel Desilets.

Agenda:

Searles School and Chapel: issue: the paving of the parking lot and walkways.

This was discussed at the TRC meeting on 7/8/14. There was discussion about the notification to the Historic District Committee in terms of timing. A delay was caused by the holiday weekend.

Margaret Case had sent an email requesting the opportunity to make a presentation to the Commission at the 7/9/14 HDC meeting.

The project details were presented by Margaret Case and Carl Dubay. Carl has been assisting to set up the dimensional criteria necessary to pave the parking areas and walkways so that people can attend events more easily.

The landscaping will be provided by and coordinated with Delahunty Nurseries and Florist. The projected cost would be approximately \$16,000.

One year ago a warrant article requesting \$100,000 for necessary work was voted down.

Margaret explained that the Searles School has been a special place for many residents of the town. Margaret and her Husband offered \$5000 to start fundraising and to date they have collected approximately \$30,000 to go toward the paving of the parking areas. If outside funding was available to cover the paving project, the School could dedicate their rental income to other needs, such as the costly care of the stained glass windows.

Margaret has also applied for a grant for a new and improved slate roof.

She learned that it was necessary to go before the Selectmen's meeting (6/30/14), the Planning Board, the Searles Historic Commission (6/17/14), and Historic District meeting. Without approval from these Commissions and Boards she would not be able to solicit funding and services (paving and materials). It is hoped that approval can be obtained so that the project would be completed by the fall (2014).

An opinion was expressed that the Historic District Committee's positive support would be helpful.

The Searles Committee has looked at alternatives for parking lot material, access and use. There are differences in the cost-range for various types of pavement, ie impermeable pavement (which cannot be sanded and is more costly).

There will be no enlargement of the current graveled parking and right-of-way areas. The paving would cover the existing graveled areas.

One opinion is that the area should be left as it is so that it is more natural-looking.

Response: The School needs to be marketed and the paving would make it more presentable. It would also make walking across the gravel paths and parking lots easier and safer.

Plowing: gravel is more difficult to plow.

Consideration was given to these issues: people step out from their vehicles onto gravel; parking spaces tend to be irregular with no clear marking; it's likely that more cars could be parked if there were marked spaces; are there safety issues from walking on irregular gravel?

Review of the Ordinance: 608 Sec 2B: a review was done by Betty Dunn on the definitions, architectural style, materials, walks, terraces, walls, etc

A Town process may not apply to this project: "upon application for permit". This project is a request to improve an existing parking area. They are not seeking a permit for something new.

Comment: It is a courtesy for the Town to make an appearance before committees so that all opinions may be heard. It is hoped that everyone will come to a consensus to discuss any concerns.

More discussion took place regarding the noticing process.

Next step: 7/16 a meeting will take place on-site to review the plans.

Trees: 3-4 trees will need to be removed. One tree has been repeatedly hit and damaged.

Walks: specifications have been reviewed and a walkway has been selected. This would be made up of tumbled pavers, which are grey and would be consistent with the grey stones on the Searles School/Chapel buildings.

Patio: future plans may include enlarging the patio.

More discussion took place on the notification process.

Each committee member made comments indicating their opinions, except for Peter who recused himself due to being on both committees.

Nancy made a motion that we approve the plans as is as long as there are no major changes. If there are major changes they would need to come before the Committee again.

Bonnie seconded the motion. Vote: 3:0 in favor (Peter abstained)

A discussion took place regarding the addition of Selectmen Liaison Joel Desilets.

A brief review of the progression of the multiple committees and commissions was given. The Searles Commission was the first Commission and later split off to the Historic District Commission, and Heritage Commission.

There is statutory authority granted by the State regarding the Historic District Commission initiatives. Other than the Historic District Commission, towns may form a Heritage Commission. The Heritage Commission has no statutory authority.

Betty Dunn also provided information of the history and definitions of the Commissions.

Watch list review: further discussion will be deferred to August

Election of Chair position: Discussion

Nancy does the financial reports. Bonnie does the minutes.

Carol is willing to be the chairperson provided she has assistance.

Peter is happy to help out as possible. He is currently working on the anniversary 275 project, as well as serving on other Commissions and Town projects.

Peter made a motion to accept Carol as the Chair. Nancy seconded the motion. Vote: 4:0 in favor.

Task: posting a notice on the Town web-site for the next HDC/HC meeting. The next meeting would be 8/13/14. If we let Wendy know 1 week prior to the meeting she can post it on the Town web-site.

Johnathon Sycamore formerly from the Planning Board, may become a member of the HC/HDC.

The time of the meetings was discussed, such as moving it to a later time. A decision and further discussion will take place at the August meeting.

Historic Commission information might be posted on a local cable network. Carol is looking into this on behalf of the committee.

TRC- Minor Site Plan/Major Watershed/WWPD Special Permit (18-L-525)

3 Chapel Rd (Lot 18-L-525): Proposing improvements to the parking area and landscaping plan.

This will be reviewed 8/6/14.

Issue for Heritage Commission as presented by Betty Dunn: What's in the ordinance for Historic Preservation?

Are there incentives that could be created for specific properties that are important historically?

Could the Town give an enticement to property owners to encourage preservation?

Could there be greater density to allow for more construction, and which would allow more profit for the owners?

They need lists of properties. The Cultural Resource List and Historic Resource Lists were pointed out on the Town web-site.

The Londonderry Heritage Committee is working on a project to get tax incentives for preservation of Historic buildings.

Information: Southern NH Regional Planning Commission. NH Preservation Alliance will be meeting on 7/22/14 where Maggie Steir will be speaking.

Adjourn: 6:00 pm

Next meeting August 13, 2014