

Historic District Commission/Heritage Commission

Joint Meeting with Windham School Board

Minutes of December 20, 2005

Present: M. Crisler, C. Pynn, and P. Schena

Also attending: WSB - Elaine Cutler, Bruce Anderson, Bev Donovan; Team Design – Wes Bonney, Dan Bisson; Appledore – Brad Magnolia; NHDHR – Edna Feighner; Public – Carolyn Webber

P. Schena called this joint meeting with the Windham School Board to order to discuss the impact of building on the proposed Windham High School site on a stone structure located on the site. He introduced Ms. Edna Feighner of the New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources (NHDHR) and invited Ms. Feighner to address the meeting concerning the site, the structure, and the process of working with the NHDHR.

Ms. Feighner provided a overview of the review and compliance requirements for federally funded projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, described her Division's prior correspondences with the Windham School Board, reviewed the remaining tasks required of the High School project under Section 106, and advised as to a possible timeline to complete remaining requirements.

Ms. Feighner noted that once final documentation was presented to the NHDHR, a committee of the Division would review the filings and make a ruling as to the eligibility of the structure for either or both the state and national registers of historic places. She then explained that subject to any such ruling additional actions, meetings (including a public meeting), and documentation/recordation may be required. She also advised that the committee meeting on eligibility meets on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month and requires that all documentation for a project's review be delivered to the NHDHR at least one week prior to the meeting date.

Finally, Ms. Feighner offered, based on a preliminary review, that the structure was both interesting and difficult to identify specifically in that neither she nor her colleagues at the NHDHR know of a similar structure existing elsewhere in the state.

M. Crisler emphasized that any remaining information must be prepared, delivered, and reviewed by the NHDHR quickly in order to maintain the School Board's current building schedule. She further stressed, if the structure is deemed eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, that the School Board and other relevant parties be prepared promptly to meet with the Division to discuss options. Also, M. Crisler presented as a means of possible mitigation the disassembly and reuse of stones from the structure, with proper documentation, in other locations on the site.

Dan Bisson of Team Design offered in this regard the possibility of reusing stones from the structure in a wall to be constructed near the entry to the School that would highlight and document the historic significance of the stones and the structure.

Bev Donovan suggested that the Commission and the School Board continue their joint work under the assumption of mitigation.

P. Schena noted that, rather than prejudging mitigation as a means to address any impact of building on the site on the structure, he felt that the Commission required additional information about the structure and a review of the School Board's alternative plans for accessing the site. He asked that on-going joint meetings between the Commission and the School Board be held to review these alternative plans and to prepare for a possible meeting with the NHDHR. The Commission and the School Board agreed to meet next on Tuesday January 3, 2006 a 4:00 PM at the SAU Building.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted in draft form,

Patrick J, Schena
Chairman, Windham Historic District Commission