

Wakefield Heritage Commission

May 5, 2010

Members Present: Pam Judge (Chairperson), John Waitner (Vice-Chairperson), Peter Kasprzyk (Selectmen's Representative), Phil Twombly, Joe Brejwo, Snooky Shea, Nancy Hall (alternate sitting in for vacant position) Valerie Ward (alternate)

Members Not Present: Kelly Shea (alternate), Barry Bishop (alternate)

Guests: Dave Tibbetts, Attorney Ruth Hall, Richard Mauser, Arthur Fulton, Jake O'Donnell (Foster's Daily Democrat), Dave Mankus, Jerry O'Connor, Daymond Steer (Carroll County Independent), Dick House, Geni House, Adam Chalke, Arno Mayer, Joseph Fleck (NH House of Representative), Dino Scala (NH House of Representative), John Hildreth, Patty and Dan Sullivan

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

Opening with the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes: The minutes from April 21, 2010 were reviewed. John made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Phil seconds the motion. The motion passed.

Financials: Two bills were handed in by Phil from Middleton Building Supply. A check for \$2,674.00 was received from the insurance company for the damage on the Freight House at the Union Station less the \$1,000.00 deductible. This will go in the general fund.

Correspondence: Preservation Magazine

Historic District: Adam Chalke and Arno Mayer are stripping the roof and putting on new shingles to the house and barn of Ruth Carley. They did not realize they needed a building permit to shingle a house and they also did not realize they needed a Certificate of Approval from the Wakefield Heritage Commission because it is in the Historic District. Adam brought in a sample of the old shingle and a new shingle. It was determined it was like material. Peter made a motion to issue a Certificate of Approval as maintenance only. Joe seconds the motion. Motion passed. A signed certificate will be brought down to the Building Inspectors office.

Union Dam: Pam explained the responsibilities of Heritage Commission. She also gave a history of what the WHC has done such as getting Wakefield to be a Certified Local Government (CLG) and getting an area resource study of the village of Union. Pam went on to explain what the Siemon Trust needs to go through to close the North Dam. The owners of the Mill Pond Dam are also considering closing this dam as well. Attorney Ruth Hall spoke about what loosing the North Dam (also known as the Siemon Dam) could mean to the village of Union. She has contacted the Dam Bureau of NH and

has had no response. She is very interested in performing a non-profit organization to take over the dam. She is also going to look into the liability relief that other forums have such as ski resorts in the state of NH. She is asking WHC if they would write a letter of support.

Richard Mauser who has been in the hydro electric business for more than 30 years ran the hydro electric plant for Mr. Siemon. He informed the commission that there are over 2000 dams in NH that are privately owned. He spoke of how there is government money to remove these dams but if one wanted to repair a dam there are no government funds for this purpose. The fees for inspections and permits for the owners of these dams are very expensive and this is the reason the owners would rather remove them. New legislation needs to be written to help the owners of these dams maintain them and help with repairs when needed.

Other residents of the village of Union spoke of the wildlife that would be affected as well as the water supply for fighting fires and other reasons they do not want to see these dams go away. Some may need to drill wells because their dug wells will go dry.

Discussion ensued stating the owners feel the state was wrong changing the status of the dam to a "high hazard" dam. A lower level of water could still flow through the dam if the owners are given permission to remove the dam.

Representative Joe Fleck would like the town people to come to him and Representative Dino Scala when state entities are not responding to them. They will help in any way they can. Pam mentioned the Preservation Alliance is very concerned.

Selectman Peter Kasprzyk would like to see a plan put together on paper. He also suggested other towns that have gone through this process should be consulted. There may be an Energy grant that could be obtained.

There was more discussion of what is needed to fight a fire in the village of Union without the water levels up. Patty Sullivan feels that alone should be reason enough for the town should consider to take over the dam.

In conclusion to this discussion Attorney Ruth Hall volunteered to write up a piece of legislation for Representatives Dino Scala and Joe Fleck to present. She is asking for letters from Wakefield Heritage Commission, Wakefield Conservation Commission and the Wakefield Board of Selectmen for support. She will also look into the options of removing the liability and creating a non-profit group. Open dialog between the residents of the village of Union, the State Representatives and the Commissions and Boards of the Town of Wakefield is needed.

A proposal to postpone the **Historic District – hearings/meetings criteria** and **Website** discussion until the next meeting was made by John. All were in agreement to spend more time on these two items in the next meeting.

Union Station: Phil reported the sheetrock is all up and the doors are done. The electrician has been there to see what he needs to hook up the hot water heater. A police officer Ian McMillan stopped by and spoke to Phil at the station. Ian is also a board member of the Cotton Mountain Valley Rail Association. They spoke of the rail behind the turntable. Phil was invited to a meeting and he will be attending May 16th at 10:00. Phil also mentioned the need for a temporary ramp out back for Heritage Day in August. Terry will be working on his freight car as soon as he is able to get down there.

The month of June the goal is to finish the station masters office. The month of July the goal will be to install the semaphore.

Union School: Pam has had discussions with the Taft family members, nothing formal. She will pick up a key from the SAU and view the building to see how much work needs to be done to it.

Pride Day: The Heritage Commission will put on their annual breakfast at Poor People's Pub at 7:00. Pam, Kelly, Joe and Phil should be there by 6:30. Valerie will man the booth at 9:00 when it opens. Joe will get the items that we are selling from the station. The raffle is being worked on and should be done by Pride Day. A self guided tour will start at 2:00 at the Spinney Meeting House with a musical program. People attending will receive a map for other locations that will be on the tour. Phil will be at the Lovell Union Grange to answer any questions of the public. He and Dave Tibbetts will make sure it is clean before Pride Day.

Grange Hall: Peter has looked at the trees that line the property between Nancy Hall's house and the Lovell Union Grange. He reported the tops of these trees are dying. It first needs to be determined that they are on the property of the Grange and not on Nancy's property.

Phil mentioned the furnace at the Grange is not in working order. He will ask the fire chief if he will look at it to see what it might need.

Barbara Schnurbush has not renewed the lease on the Grange. Last year she ran her shop "Bidly's Place" out of it.

Historic Garden Programs: Brookfield Heritage Commission, Brookfield Bloomers and the Wakefield Heritage Commission are presenting a John Forti to speak on historic gardens on June 16th at 6:30 PM at the Brookfield Town Hall.

Jette Memorial Park Dedication: The date for the dedication has been decided to be Saturday, July 24th.

Phil makes a motion to adjourn. Peter seconds the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Valerie Ward, secretary