

Wakefield Heritage Commission
October 3, 2005

Present: Elizabeth MacRury, Chairperson; Nancy Bancroft, Peter Brown, Connie Twombly and Pam Judge.

Call to Order: Beth called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes (8/29/05): Peter Brown made a motion to approve the minutes of August 29, 2005 as presented, seconded by Pam Judge. The motion passed unanimously.

State Meeting with Ray Burton: Beth reported that the meeting with Ray Burton was very positive and that he was very supportive. Beth spoke with Town Attorney, Rick Sager who said the process of acquiring the property in Turntable Park will take approximately 3 months to resolve. Rick was very encouraging and will begin the process.

Heritage Museum: Mary Richards has completed her Docent duties. Mary enjoyed her time at the Museum.

Beth spoke with Paul Gosselin regarding the design of the new museum. They discussed the design and the intent being to model the building after the railroad stations. Paul will begin working on the design this fall.

Grange Proposal: The Grange does not want to sell the building. The deed would include a statement that the building can not be sold for profit and must be preserved as a historic building. Beth requested a written proposal from the Grange.

The Heritage members discussed suggestions for the Grange Building.

Pam suggested renting/leasing the building to the local artisans who are looking for gallery space. Peter asked if the building could be rented to cover the expenses of maintaining the building. Connie Twombly who is also a Grange member stated that the Grange members do not have a problem with the space being rented. Peter suggested that the Farmer's Market may want to expand and use the space. They may also want to use the building during harvest time. The Heritage Commission members agreed that the upstairs of the Grange should be preserved as a Grange Hall. Nancy Bancroft suggested that the UNH Cooperative Extension Service may want to hold some education classes there. Peter reminded the members that there are no toilet facilities in the building. A chemical toilet was discussed as well as handicapped access. Pam Judge suggested the Commission present a proposal for use of the building to the Selectmen. The members discussed the building being used for weddings, receptions, showers, crafters, quilters or organizations that may need meeting space. Nancy suggested renting the building to some of the Lake Associations so they could have dinners there.

Spinney Meeting House: It is not known if the bat problem has been taken care of. The man who was hired was going to finish and clean. Beth will check with the Town Hall to see if he returned the key and if he has been paid for completing the job.

Peter discussed the future of the Spinney Meeting House and what the Commission's plans were for the next phase of renovations. Peter suggested the Commission work on a ceiling. The Commission discussed using gas lanterns. The ground around the building still needs work. Fill needs to be added to accommodate cars so they do not have to park on the street. Pam suggested a sign in front of the building so people know what it is. Pam and Peter will look at the Spinney Meeting House and decide how much gravel is needed to make parking space. Pam will obtain estimates on the gravel work.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Wakefield Heritage Commission will be on October 17, 2005 at 5:00 PM.

Adjournment: Pam Judge made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Peter Brown. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne N. Dolbear
Secretary