

# Wakefield, New Hampshire

## Heritage Commission

June 7, 2017, 7:00 PM

### Members in Attendance:

Pam Wiggin, Chairperson

Phil Twombley, Connie Twombley Selectmans Rep, Annette Perry, Helen Watkins, Tracy Kolb, Snookey Shea, Rick Poore

#### 1. Pledge:

The meeting was opened at 7PM with the Pledge to the Flag.

#### 2. Minutes:

The minutes of May 3<sup>rd</sup> were approved by Pam, Phil, Connie, Snookey, Rick, and Annette. Abstaining was Tracy.

#### 3. Financials:

As of the end of May, 2017, Fund 1 had a balance of \$9,157.54. A warrant was signed for expenses that will be expended from Fund 4. Under the Operating budget, Heating Fuel, the line item is over budget by \$285.99. Under the Capital budget, Misc. Expenses, is over budget by \$170.34. Fund 4 has a balance of \$18,929.84.

4. **Bequest:** The estate of Beth McCury has been settled, and a total of \$222,002.85 has been turned over to the Wakefield Heritage Commission. This money will be turned over to the town and placed into Fund 4.

#### 5. Correspondence:

NH Preservation Alliance sent a thankyou note for our renewal of our membership.

From the NH Preservation Alliance web site:

“Barns tell the history of New Hampshire: from hardscrabble beginnings to the sheep and dairy booms in the 19th century, virtually every rural homestead and village property included a barn. As you travel through New Hampshire today, it’s impossible not to see that this legacy of hard work and community is crumbling around us.

The goal of 52 Barns in 52 Weeks is to help at least 52 barns across the state in 2017 with assessment grants, education and promotion of a local tax relief program for barns. Barns will be showcased that offer practical information and inspiration to others. We're losing historic New

Hampshire barns at a rate of nearly one per day, and experts point to a big bubble of need because of deferred maintenance in many 19th century barns.”

The Preservation Alliance will use three proven programs to meet the goal: assessment grants that help owners prioritize and plan barn repair work, educational programs for barn owners and enthusiasts, and expanding use of a state barn easement program that can offer tax relief to property owners for their historic agriculture structures.

The NH Preservation Alliance has chosen a Wakefield farm as one of the 52 Barns. It is the Twombly farm at 600 Old Stage Road. The farm was built in 1768.

**6. Insurance:**

The Heritage Commission has renewed the liability insurance through The National Trust Ins. Company, for the snow plow in Union. Pam will contact the owner of the Snow Plow to see if he will consider a long term lease.

**7. Publicity:**

Larissa will put a notice on the web site about the opening on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Annette has put new brochures around town and state welcome centers.

**8. Hay Scale subcommittee:**

Pam or Nancy will write a letter to the NH DOT, District 3, with a request for all the modifications or updates that we want to make to the Hay Scales, including a fence, and ask for a site review.

**9. Pride Day May 20<sup>th</sup>:**

We set up a canopy and sold \$322.00 worth of merchandise. The canopy frame was broken, so Phil bought a new canopy, 10ft X 10ft, with frame, and donated it to the Heritage Commission.

**10. Historic District/village report:**

The cross walks will be put in this summer. The historic signs that designate Wakefield Village as a National Historic District need to be replaced. Pam will contact NH DOT to see what needs to be done to replace the signs.

**11. Signage:**

Snooky reported that the new sign for the top of the Heritage Park sign in Union is being completed. Also the dedication plaques will be completed for June 24<sup>th</sup> opening.

**12. Grant:**

Mae Williams, the consultant to complete the NH Division of Historical Resources Area Form for the Village of Sanbornville is continuing.

**13. Opening June 24, 2017:**

The contractor that was going to build the steps for the caboose has canceled, so Pam has talked to another contractor to do the job. Annette made a motion to hire a contractor to build the steps for \$1500.00 or less. Connie seconded the motion. Motion passed. Pam, Rick, and Phil will meet at the caboose on Wed. June 14<sup>th</sup> at 10am, to see what we can put into the caboose for opening day.

Phil will buy hot dogs, rolls, chips, soda and water. Members will bake cookies. Annette and Phil will wash the floor, Annett will dust and clean the rest room.

A big thank you to the Pride of Wakefield group who helped clean up the flowers under the flag pole and under the Heritage Park sign.

**14. Spinney Meeting House:**

Phil and Rick volunteered to cut the grass at Spinney Meeting House.

The painters are finishing the scraping and painting of the outside walls, also repaint the inside walls and pews. Rick will repair pews and alter. Connie made a motion to spend up to \$2500.00 for wood and all repairs needed. Seconded by Annette. Motion passed. Lance McClain will look at the piano and organ to see if they can be repaired and used. We want to keep the organ and get rid of the piano.

**15. Grange, rest room:**

The new composting toilet has arrived from Middleton Supply. Hopefully it will be installed by our next meeting. A bid will be put out for painting the hallway and scrape and paint the outside of the building. Pam would like to put shutters on all the windows in the meeting hall. Pam will check prices. Phil has requested an electrician review all the electrical outlets, lights and main control panel. The Heritage Center at Wakefield Corner will open on Saturday, July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Phil will find some history of the Grange and write ups for the various stations when we open.

**16. Water Tower, Blacksmith shop Chimney, and Blacksmith forge:**

All bids are required to be in by 4pm on June 16<sup>th</sup>. Members will meet at the Town Hall to review them.

**17. Snow plow:**

Need bids to repair the siding, also inside the snowplow. Phil suggested that we buy some bunting to put on the Snow plow, the Caboose, and along the eaves on the train station for the opening and July 4<sup>th</sup>. Connie made a motion to spend up to \$500.00 on bunting. Seconded by Rick. Motion carried.

**18. East Wakefield School:**

The East Wakefield School has been used by a church group. The church group is no longer using it and was turned over to the town. The Selectmen want to sell it so that the town will receive more property taxes. All of the Commission members have seen the inside and outside of the school. It is the last existing one room public school in Wakefield. Built in 1906. The commission members will go to the Selectman's meeting on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to discuss the benefits of turning over the school building to the Heritage Commission. All of the school artifacts that the Heritage Commission has, can be transferred to the school and put on display. A motion was made by Phil to go to the Selectman's meeting and ask the selectmen to turn over the school to the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Annette. The motion passed.

**19. Donations:**

Annette received a donation of a B&M Railroad Coach ticket dated 1930, from Richard & Browen Bell from Union NH. We could possibly display the ticket in the Caboose.

A locomotive B&M bell was donated Mr. Russell Cox. The following letter accompanied the bell.

"This bell, being donated by Russell Cox, president of Linnell & Cox, has come from one of the last three steam locomotives of the Boston & Maine Railroad when it was sold as scrap.

The Boston & Maine Railroad was not always blessed with good Management, and this bell is symbolic of some of its ineptitudes. During the regime of its President, Dan Benson, in 1953 the railroad was struggling to avoid bankruptcy. It was selling off assets to generate cash. The Railroad was selling freight cars to South America via a broker friend of the management. It turns out that the US Government had helped finance the original purchase of these freight cars, and had some lien on their disposal. The illegal sales caused the President, Treasurer, and broker to be tried in federal court, and sentenced to 3 years in prison in Danbury, CT.

The bell had been a gift from the railroad president to the broker for his help in these sales. The broker was a tenant in the B&M Headquarters building at North Station in Boston. Linnell & Cox had purchased the North Station Office Building from B&M, and was actively managing the office building when the broker was a tenant.

While in prison, the broker failed to pay his rent on his office in the building. As management of the building, at the termination of the broker's lease, Linnell & Cox confiscated his office furnishings, including the bell, which has been in my possession ever since."

The bell is now on display at the Union Rail Road Station.

**20. Name tags:**

Phil suggested that all members get new name tags. Pam will check with Staples.

**21. Tee shirts:**

Pam will check what the order was for last year.

**22. Mugs:**

All the mugs that we ordered from Deneen Pottery are in with two display racks. One rack holds 4 mugs. We will keep one at the Union Station and the other rack will go to the Heritage Center at Wakefield Corner.

**23. Metal detection:**

Marie Hanson asked if the commission was interested in any artifacts that she found. Nothing was decided, and no response is necessary.

**24. Freight House crew:**

They were requesting several things. Phil suggested that if they need anything, to contact Pam and get on the agenda for next meeting to present their request.

Meeting adjourned at 9 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Philip Twombly