HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING

MINUTES of December 1, 2021 meeting

Wolfeboro Town Hall Annex  
3:00 pm

I: Call to Order. Chairman Maggie Stier called the meeting to order at 3 pm. Other members present were Suzanne Ryan, Vaune Dugan, Cindy Melanson, Luke Freudenberg (BOS liaison), Anne Blodget, and Dave Bolduc. Ronn Bronzetti and alternate Mark Lush were not present. Christine Collins, director of Parks & Rec and Denise Roy Palmer of WECO (by phone), members of the Charrette Steering Committee, also participated in relevant agenda discussions.   
  
II: Acceptance of November 10, 2021, Minutes. Moved and seconded and passed unanimously.  
  
III: Bridge Falls Pathway Lighting: Christine Collins shared a brief PowerPoint about the proposed new lighting plan for the Bridge Falls Path. She explained that the current lights are 28 years old and frequently malfunction. New posts and gas-light type fixtures that match the ones used around the train station have been costed out. She acknowledged that they are very expensive (over $4,000 each and 34 are needed), and they would be open to something appropriate that would cost less. Anne Blodget suggested looking at Dublin, NH model and agreed to forward info the Collins. Heritage concerns had to do with appropriateness of urban-style lighting in a generally rural area, illumination contained to the path and downward facing, and having a natural warm light rather than cool blue. Funding will be via a small reserve and a warrant article.  
  
IV: Proposed Heritage 2022 Warrant Article. Suzanne Ryan presented the language that she and Chairman Stier had been working on.

*To see if the town will VOTE TO raise and appropriate the sum of SEVENTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS ($17,000) to hire a preservation consultant to carry out a TOWN WIDE historic resources survey that will serve as a foundation for future efforts to protect its historic character and help manage growth and change. Completing this survey is identified as a high priority in the Arts, Culture and Heritage chapter of the Master Plan and is one of the primary purposes of the Heritage Commission. The survey will provide an overview of the community including its geography, history, architecture, patterns of development, and important themes in its history. It will contain an extensive bibliography, maps, and listings of potential and already identified historic resources.*

*This special warrant article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7,VI and will not lapse until the (survey) is completed or by (lapse date), whichever is sooner.*

*The Board of Selectmen recommend / do not recommend (record their vote)  
The Budget Committee recommend / do not recommend (record their vote)*

The Heritage Commission voted unanimously to endorse this wording. Stier also shared copies of the consultant’s proposal with the commission members present. At the end of the meeting, Stier and Ryan sent the WA and links to two sample town-wide surveys to the town manager, board of Selectman chair Linda Murray, and BOS liaison to the HC Luke Freudenberg. These are included here for the record.

Surveys in Amherst (done in 2010) and North Hampton (done in 2018) provide good examples of what we can expect to receive.

<https://www.amherstnh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif4116/f/uploads/amherst_townwide_survey_low-2009_0.pdf>

<https://www.northhamptonh-gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif996/f/pages/north_hampton_townwide_final.pdf>

V:  Post Charrette Continued discussion: Discussion with Christine Collins focused on Charrette recommendations that pertained to her jurisdiction, such as the former Municipal Electric Building becoming a community center. She said that reflected her own hopes for that space. Collins stated that there is still much work to be done on possible in-ground contamination before any definite plans can be put forward, however. The group also shared the idea of moving the Foss Field playground closer to the new pavilion, thereby clearing space for expansion of the parking lot behind Harvest market. Charrette recommendations for enhancing pedestrian paths near the Train Station and enhancement of the Glendon Street parking lot were also shared and discussed. “All it takes is money,” she concluded. Suzanne Ryan also reported on her telephone conversation with Chuck Clement of Eastern Propane to tell him more about the Charrette and ask if he had plans for the Wolfeboro Oil property he now owns on Lehner Street. He was interested and responsive, saying he had no immediate plans though removal of the tanks is a requirement for him. HC will send him a copy of the Charrette report when it becomes available.   
  
VI: Discussion Governor Wentworth Highway Tower Height Increase. Suzanne Ryan stated that this tower is located near Pierce Camp Biirchmont on Route 109. Anne Blodget said the trees have grown to the point that it is no longer visible from the Lake. Proposed tower heigh increase would go from 95 feet to 117. Any impacts to historic resources, Stier asked? The Governor Wentworth State Historic Site might be impacted. A balloon test would be the only way to determine that. We will plan to speak to this issue at the upcoming planning board meeting. Anne will be sure Wentworth Watershed Association is aware of this project too.

V: Public Comment Welcome: no public comment.  
  
VI: Adjourn: 4:15 pm.

Next meeting: January 12, 2022. 5 pm.