

MINUTES
Wolfeboro Heritage Commission

Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020, 5 pm via Go To Meeting

Members present: Anne Blodgett, David Bolduc, Ronn Bronzetti, Vaune Dugan, Pat Hodder, Cindy Melanson, Suzanne Ryan, Maggie Stier

1. Minutes from August 12, 2020. Accepted unanimously.

2. Old Business

Discussion of possible warrant articles for 2021. Board agreed that, based on Master Plan priorities (to be discussed below), and the RSA that outlines the duties of Heritage Commissions, the HC should work toward formally identifying the themes and existing resources (individual buildings and structures, cultural landscapes, historic areas and potential historic districts) that represent Wolfeboro's history, even if it takes several years. Maggie Stier agreed to contact some preservation consultants to learn more about the process of an area survey or overview and the estimated costs and will report this information at the next meeting.

Consideration of Local Preservation Recognition program: This was tabled to focus on discussion of Master Plan Goals.

Libby Museum preservation status: The Board of Trustees (the Selectmen) have determined that a large expansion isn't feasible but will focus on building repairs which may involve a small addition. Pat Hodder noted that the Friends of the Libby are still actively fundraising for improvements.

Barn Easement Monitoring visits: HC members agreed to schedule easement monitoring visits with owners of the four barns that are under RSA 79-D easements. S. Ryan for the 1810 House; A. Blodgett for the Norton-Sexton barn, C. Melanson for the Marquese barn; and M. Stier for the Brown's Farm Barn.

5. New Business

Master Plan Goal Implementation: Vaune Dugan, HC and Planning Board member, said that the Master Plan has about 9 priority items it has assigned to in the Heritage Commission, and one more that has been accomplished this year. The outstanding items are as follows:

1. Create a central staffed location to welcome and orient visitors, and provide information on arts and cultural opportunities.
2. Create and maintain an inventory of the town's historic resources--major historic structures, public art, and places of significance—using established protocols.
3. . Communicate the stories of our historic and cultural resources to the public through various means including articles, programs, and social media.

4. Enhance town staff and public knowledge with maps and info on historic resources on town website or other easy reference sources.
5. Support and assist the Wolfeboro Historical Society in its mission.... (This non-profit leases Clark House and other buildings from the town; their 99 year lease expires in 2027.)
6. Support, educate and empower town professionals to grant building code compliance relief whenever possible to encourage new investment in the rehabilitation of significant historic structures.
7. Find new uses for vacant or under-used buildings (such as train station, Municipal Electric building, etc.) and invest in their rehabilitation.
8. Explore new regulatory tools and procedures that can be used to protect and preserve historic structures. Build community support for adopting these measures, then promote and encourage their use.
9. Establish a budget for the Heritage Commissions

Vaune asked that each HC member choose 3 or more areas that they would be willing to work on in the coming year. It was also agreed that at each meeting we report on progress in these ten areas.

Maggie asked the group about switching our meetings to quarterly or every other month: it was agreed to meet every other month, starting in January. Vaune Dugan suggested that, in special circumstances, we can schedule additional meetings, and all agreed.

6. Public Comment: none

7. Adjourned 6:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Maggie Stier, chair