Wolfeboro Heritage Commission

Town Hall Annex Meeting Room
September 13, 2017, 7 p.m.
Minutes - Draft

Members present: Chairman Maggie Stier, Wendy McHugh and Gene Denu

Members absent: Vaune Dugan, Cynthia Melanson, Anne Blodget and Board of Selectmen Liaison Dave Bowers

Staff present: Recording Secretary Michele Chamberlain

Staff absent: Town Manager Dave Owen and Director of Planning & Development Matt Sullivan

Call to order:
Chairman Stier called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Public Input:
Chairman Stier suggested that, in the absence of a quorum of members being present, this time be used to share some of the things we have seen in town relating to our historic resources. The Commission discussed the new bank building being built in Town (Citizen's) and expressed shared concerns over the lack of setbacks on two sides, which disrupts street alignment and block views, especially of the Town Hall.

Chairman Stier stated she recently participated in the Downtown Walking Tour with Don Hargy and suggested it might be a good activity for the entire group to do.

Gene Denu stated Yankee Magazine contacted the Historical Society and they would like to do an article on Wolfeboro. Dave Bowers will be working with the editor of the magazine.

Old Business:

Budget requests:
Chairman Stier updated the Board on the budget request that was submitted. She stated the request was for money for state register plaques for 3 sites, and training/conference sessions for commission members including mileage and attendance fees.

Progress on Heritage Commission Web Page:
Chairman Stier stated Ms. McHugh submitted her article on the Railroad Station and encouraged other members to have their assignments completed by the end of the month so they could load them onto the website.

Genu Denu stated there was some confusion on how to present the information on the History of Wolfeboro (1800 -1950). It seems to be extremely difficult to condense the

time period from 1800 to now into a short couple of pages that somebody would retain interest in.

Chairman Stier stated she would see if she could find some examples from other towns and would share those with him.

Gene Denu stated there are other examples such as the one in the 250th Anniversary Book but it is at least 20 pages long.

Wendy McHugh stated maybe we could direct them to that example with a tab on the web page.

Gene Denu said that the 250th Anniversary Book is available for purchase at Town Hall or the Chamber of Commerce for $5. If someone is interested who does not live in town it could be purchased through the Historical Society for the price of the book and shipping.

Chairman Stier stated we will discuss how to put this material on the website at our next meeting.

New Business:
Chairman Stier stated the NH Preservation Alliance's annual Seven to Save announcement event will be on October 27th at the Great Hall. The Heritage Commission has agreed to organize and help staff a pre-event tour of these sites: the Pickering House, Town Hall, Chamber Offices at the Railroad Station and Freight House. She has already asked key people representing those places to be present and they have agreed.

Gene Denu proposed a driving tour of Wolfeboro. He discussed his tour in detail. (See attached sheet)

Chairman Stier wondered about adding a few more sites to the list. Some of the sites she suggested are the Libby Museum, the Clark House, the the site of the Pleasant Valley School, the Pickering House, the Citizen's Bank Building, Brewster Academy, Allen A and Lehner Street.

Gene Denu stated he did not include museums in his driving tour because you don't need a driving tour to visit these sites and thought Ms. Stier's other suggestions should be a separate tour since it extended to a much larger geographic area and couldn't be done easily in a few hours.

Chairman Stier suggested making a list of historical sites that people might want to drive to as an alternative.

The Commission discussed the proposed driving tour sites.

Chairman Stier stated at our last meeting we discussed the purpose of the Heritage Commission and she thought that the driving tour might be more appropriate for the Historical Society. She stated the role of the Heritage Commission is to advocate for the protection of the town's historic character, and to build awareness of the benefits of preservation, but not to directly promote tourism which this tour seemed to be focused on.

Gene Denu agreed and stated he would make a driving tour on his own.

Chairman Stier stated the next meeting is scheduled for October 11, 2017 at 5:00 PM.

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Chamberlain