

## *RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION*

Minutes (DRAFT) of Board Meeting held on 10/21/15 at Vets Hall at 3:30 pm

Present: Carol Jameson, Chair; Bonnie McCarthy, Treasurer; Bob Weekes, Sec'y; Sandy Laughner; Susan Roney; Hank Hallas, Alternate (in part).

Minutes of the 9/23/15 meeting were approved as presented.

Bonnie McCarthy gave the Treasurer's Report. She reported that donations have now covered the full costs of restoring the Tramp House within its small park on Town land. This will allow donated funds not specifically restricted to either the Tramp House or Civil War Projects to be retained in the unrestricted portion of the RHC's budget for future use.

Members took notice of the many hours of recordkeeping work contributed by our Treasurer, Bonnie, maintaining accurate records of donations and expenses and handling all acknowledgements of gifts throughout the fundraising period.

Bob Weekes updated members on "finishing touches" as the Tramp House Project nears completion as a mini-museum chronicling this phase of Richmond's cultural history. Bob is preparing a photographic record of the restoration for the Town Archives as well as a photo display for the Library's next presentation on its History Wall. Carol Jameson will contact the Keene Sentinel to arrange a follow-up story it intends to write on this town project. Also discussed was a reception to be given to a small group of local people whose labors were especially helpful in completing this project, time to be determined.

Carol updated members on work of the landscaping committee at the Town Well/Watering Trough, the Town Hall and also on future plans for both the Town and Vets Halls.

Carol then framed the ongoing Town budgeting process as it related to 2015 Heritage Commission activities. It was agreed to postpone this subject until later in the meeting when the Commission had had a chance to further its discussions of next year's priorities.

Bob Weekes and Sandy Laughner then discussed a new development in historical artifacts that have been offered to the Town. Items and machinery involved in Richmond's pail making industry have been offered to the Town by John Holman if they will remain in Richmond. Bob and Sandy have already explored the site and identified a variety of artifacts that would constitute an important addition to the Town Archives. Although not in the "archives business" but vitally interested in historic preservation, the Heritage Commission wished to add this to its agenda. Bob and Sandy will investigate further to see if labor and space can be found to care for them in the interim.

With the Tramp House project nearing completion, Commission members then turned to a discussion of projects on its agenda with a view to identifying priorities, timetables, individual responsibilities and next steps to guide the 2016 budgeting process underway. Discussion of same was put off so Hank Hallas, who had to leave the meeting early to attend a family celebration, could address research that he and the Historical Society of Cheshire County volunteers had conducted on

Richmond's Civil War Veterans. Hank wishes to contribute this body of research to the Town as a permanent record and also to use it as the basis for a presentation he would like to give to residents at the Vets Hall next spring, time to be determined. He views this presentation as a logical first phase of a multi-phase program that would ultimately lead to the installation of a Civil War Monument in the park next to the Vets Hall.

The Commission then returned to its discussion of 2016 priorities already in the planning chain, including the following:

- Town Common Park (Brewer Memorial Park)
- Telephone Building
- Town Pound
- Richmond Public Library
- Town historical signage
- Quaker Cemetery
- Civil War Monument

We recognized that each of these projects entails a good deal of planning and preparation before they begin, and that budgeting for next year's RHC activities requires immediate action. RHC members have contributed over 1000 hours of labor in the last year alone and we need to be very focused on what we can realistically expect to achieve next year given our small corps of volunteers and whatever funds we might expect the Town to contribute at Town Meeting in March, 2016. Yet based on current success, we remain committed to our goals of creating positive and visible change in our town's historical and cultural landscape. Discussion of the above projects was, of necessity, wide ranging and members are pursuing individual tasks associated with each to provide more input to this process before the next board meeting which was scheduled for November 18, 2015 at 3:30pm at the Vets hall.

Meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Weekes, Secretary