

RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes (draft) of Board Meeting held on 11/11/16 at 3:30pm at Carol Jameson's house

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

- Minutes of the last meeting held on 9/28/16 were approved as presented.
- Bonnie McCarthy presented the Treasurer's Report, reporting that the Heritage Commission had exhausted the town appropriation of \$1000 received in 2016 and further dug into its own treasury to pay for ongoing projects. The good news was that the RHC had just received three additional anonymous gifts, all unrestricted, totaling \$1800. However, fundraising will definitely be necessary to help pay for projects under consideration for 2017.
- The remainder of the meeting was a work session focused on possible RHC projects for 2017, both new projects and the continuation of some initiated during 2016. In the process, Commission members were updated on developments that have occurred since our last meeting.
 - Brewer Park – the easement has been prepared but has not yet been signed by Ed and Melissa Atkins. Survey of the park site has also been finalized. Site preparation will likely be postponed until spring as will signage, installation of the well pump and landscaping. Joe Tonweber has railroad ties that he will donate to the project if they are deemed appropriate for park edging. The RHC will have to conduct fundraising to cover anticipated costs to finish the park.
 - Town Green – converting the barren logged land surrounding the Vets hall (a town eyesore) and the Memorial Park into an attractive and integrated Town Green Park is viewed as a priority 2017 project by the RHC. While the Commission initiated the idea and submitted a preliminary plan to the BOS last June, we recognize that to be successful it would have to become a town project as the RHC cannot do it alone. That would require building support from other town organizations, informing residents of the dimensions and benefits of this project, and preparing a warrant article for the 2017 town meeting asking for an appropriation to help finance the work. The BOS has asked the RHC to submit a plan including costs for certain aspects of site preparation (e.g., backfill of the Memorial Park area, seeding, fencing, signage, etc.) by mid-December so it can decide further action on a possible warrant article.

As a next step the RHC will try to meet with other town organizations (e.g., Conservation, Parks and Rec, etc.) to explore collaboration for this project. Carol also reported that clearing the site of stumps and rocks, which was to have been

completed this year, may have to be put off until next year. Same with building a berm on the north side of the Vets Hall and expanding the parking area.

At the same time the RHC will explore contacting a landscape designer to advise us on the overall design of the park area since it embraces changes to the Vets Hall surroundings, the Memorial Park, the Telephone Building and the possible addition of other structures that might ultimately be built on, or moved to that location.

- Telephone Building – the RHC has already hired Steve Laflam to repair the building’s roof. This work will be completed by the end of December to stabilize it until its future can be decided (depending on developments with the larger Town Green Project).
- Memorial Park – it was decided that the RHC will explore collaborating with the Richmond Historical Society on redesigning the Memorial Park, a first step before the installation of a new memorial honoring Richmond’s Civil War veterans. Carol will contact its president, Gerry Mills.
- Quaker Cemetery – Carol reported that the Rhode Island Quaker organization has agreed to transfer title to the cemetery to the Town of Richmond, asking that appropriate signage be installed. The RHC agreed to explore collaboration with the RHS on this project also and will contact that organization.
- Martin Pail Mill artifacts – RHC members will meet with the Winchendon Historical Society on November 20th to see its presentation of that town’s history of pail making. Beyond finding temporary storage for Martin Pail Mill artifacts rescued from the Holman barn, it is yet to be decided what role the Richmond Heritage Commission will play in town archive matters.
- Town Pound – as a first step, Bob will contact a stone wall builder to discuss what would be involved to fully restore Richmond’s town pound.
- Bob agreed to write an article summarizing RHC activities for next year’s annual report.

Because the meeting was running late, discussion on other 2017 projects was deferred until the next meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Bob Weekes, Secretary