

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting of the Richmond Heritage Commission (RHC)  
Held on July 15, 2015 at 3:30 PM in the Vets Hall

Present were Carol Jameson, Hank Hallas, Sandy Laughner, Bonnie McCarthy, Susan Roney and Bob Weekes, constituting all of the Commissioners and the one Alternate. Minutes of the last meeting on June 15 were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report - Bonnie McCarthy, RHC Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. (Funds are managed by the Town Treasurer; the RHC Treasurer tracks funds and expenditures for RHC purposes.) Bonnie reported that RHC donations continue to come in. We are getting much closer to our goal of funds needed to restore the historic Richmond Tramp House. In addition, the RHC is very grateful to Terri O'Rourke for donating a hand-made quilt to be raffled off to raise funds for "finishing touches," furnishings for the Tramp House when finished. Bob Weekes has already designed and printed tickets and publicity (August Rooster insert) to support the raffle. Early ticket sales are already approaching \$200. Tickets are \$5 each, 3 for \$12, and may be purchased from Heidi Wood at town hall at the Selectmen's office during regular office hours, or by contacting Bonnie McCarthy. They will also be available at the town firemen's barbeque on August 30<sup>th</sup> when the quilt will be on display.

The Commissioners approved expending funds for the Tramp House project, including approximately half of our unrestricted funds as needed for the completion of the project.

Moose Plate Grant – Carol Jameson discussed the pending application for the Moose Plate grant. The amount the NH Division of Historical Resources has available for grant funding is still unknown, although they anticipate a substantial cut in funding, which means that fewer grants are expected to be awarded this year which will decrease the odds of our getting a grant. We will not know the status of our application until the division knows the amount it has to give out, which may not be for another month, beyond our present deadline for beginning reconstruction. Carol Jameson will recontact the Terra Nova Foundation to see if additional funding is available from that source.

Tramp House Reconstruction - Bob Weekes reported on the status of construction and publicity for our current project. Much of the site work has been completed. The property is being staked for location of future fencing, parking area and the footprint of the Tramp House when it is moved. Lumber to be used in the reconstruction is being produced at Pete Kimball's mill at the 4 Corners and delivered to Bob Weekes for storage, priming and painting by RHC members prior to installation. Split rail fencing to delineate the future park has been purchased at a discount at Peterborough Agway and delivered to Bob. The fundraising sign at the Tramp House site will be upgraded reflecting donations received to date. Bob will also produce a sign for display at the site by August 30<sup>th</sup> (Firemen's Chicken Barbecue) carrying a short history of the Tramp House. This sign will be temporary until the Heritage Commission can address permanent universal signage to identify Richmond's historic sites and buildings and get approval from the BOS.

An article summarizing progress on this project has been written by our mascot, "Harry the Hobo," and will appear in the August Rooster. If all goes according to plan, reconstruction of the Tramp House will be completed by the end of August with final painting of both exterior and interior by Heritage Commission members to follow in September. Fence installation, seeding and mulching will occur as we are able to find willing hands.

We should begin looking for the artifacts needed to furnish the Tramp House as it was when in use, searching also for a small old metal ice box, about the size of the modern dorm refrigerators, as that may have been in the Tramp House in its day.

Preparation for the August 30 barbeque was discussed. The Tramp House should be sufficiently constructed so as to be available for visiting, complete with a guitar playing hobo, signage about the history of the structure and a listing of all who have made financial and in-kind donations to date. Commissioners will take turns manning a table or roaming the crowd (to be discussed) for the sale of raffle tickets. Subgroups will work as needed to assure we are ready for August 30.

Civil War Monument. Hank reported on the status of the research and plans for an eventual monument for Richmond soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The research conducted by the Cheshire County Historical Society has been excellent – yielding many names that are still known locally, and fascinating stories. The research was conducted under Hank's initiative and at his personal expense, and

should be complete very soon. Hank will make it available to the town as well. A letter of appreciation to the Society was discussed, and also the idea of making a contribution to HSCC from the RHC, both of which were favorably received by the group.

Pipeline Update. Carol Jameson gave an update on the status of the pipeline opposition, especially with reference to the work of the NH Municipal Pipeline Coalition, of which Richmond is a member.

Landscaping. Carol Jameson gave an update on plans for landscaping around the well and town trough, also possibly at the Town Hall and the Vet's Hall. Members volunteered to do the weeding and planting around the well; plants have been donated for the space. The group will set a date for next week for weeding and prep. [Secretary's note: this date has been subsequently changed to Friday, July 24 at 11 PM. Volunteers are welcome to join us]

The town is considering additional landscaping at Town Hall and at the Vet's Hall, as the timing is optimal in connection with the parking lot upgrade; scoping and pricing is underway. Plants have also been donated for the Town Hall front, replacing the plants there now (much neglected beyond repair and including invasive species). RHC members are available to do the prepping and planting if a machine can be brought in to rip out what is there now. Carol will investigate.

Other business. Uniform town signage of historical and town sites was briefly discussed. Commission members have put this on their agenda and Bob Weekes will present some preliminary ideas at our next meeting.

A very full meeting was then adjourned at 6:15pm.

Bob Weekes, Secretary  
Carol Jameson, Chair