

final
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Richmond Heritage Commission

Minutes of Meeting held Wednesday August 20, 2014 at Sandy Laughner's house

Attending: Hank Hallas (acting Sec'y), Sandy Laughner and Susan Marsden

The meeting convened at 7 p.m. in the parlor of the very late Grindall Thayer (currently occupied by S. Laughner) under the light of a kerosene lantern. The setting was most charming and Sandy's homestead is indeed an excellent example of Richmond Heritage! R. Weekes was on vacation and Carol Jameson was unexpectedly called to NYC. We had a quorum and proceeded to hold our meeting. The following items were discussed:

1. We discussed the additions to create a draft #2 of the Inventory. A few highlights;
 - a. a key to the columns was added
 - b. usage of the latest known site name followed by a "formerly known as" has been adopted
 - c. a column labeled G "threat" was added, to be applied as necessary
 - d. a column labeled H "leverage/adjacency" was added to denote project and site interactions.
 - e. various comments which should enhance the doc were added based on prior meetings and new info

Again this inventory is very much a working document subject to updates and improvements as we progress.

2. We discussed a new exhibit "Heritage Commission Potential Project List" (in no particular order)

These sites appear on the inventory as listing high priority sites for discussion. These 15 line items are a result of that activity and subject to discussion and consensus at a future commission meeting. No action or discussion was held.

3. Non site topics subject to further discussion as well as project common themes were discussed. Again no action or discussion was held pending a fully attended future meeting.

Additional miscellaneous discussion:

a. Hank had discovered an image of the "Embattled Farmer" painted by Alec James and appeared in a 1947 catalogue from an exhibit at the Currier Museum in Manchester, NH. It shows Gerry Whitcomb (a selectman) over a typewriter. Mr. Whitcomb was living in the home now occupied by Susan Roney, fyi. Hank suspects that this painting is held in the Shuman Collection at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

b. A photo of a medal medallion was shared usually found on buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. The three of us wondered whether any of the 4 sites in Richmond have them and if not why?

c. It was reported that signage has been added to the Aldrich Cemetery however the source is unknown at this time. The handsome sign can be found well off of rt 32 at the base of the trail leading up to the cemetery, fyi. There is still no sign visible from rt 32. This cemetery was the site of DAR marker ceremony a few years back and we expect that the source of the new signage may become known to us.

d. R. Weekes one page synopsis of the Lydia Martin Abbott watering trough was read by Sandy and a general discussion followed. Again no action was taken pending a full meeting.

e. Hank shared the results of studying the 1858 Cheshire County map of Richmond and determining the School House number system as well as 13 such structures on that map.

The kerosene lantern was darkened around 9:30 pm. The assembled group agreed to reconvene at the Vets Hall Sept 17th at 7pm

Respectfully submitted
Hank Hallas, acting Secretary

