

## RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes (DRAFT) of Board Meeting held on 5/18/16 at the Weekes Barn at 3:30pm

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

- Minutes of the previous meeting held 4/20/16 were approved as presented.
- Bonnie McCarthy presented the Treasurer's Report, noting both restricted and unrestricted funds available for Heritage Commission projects
- 2016 Heritage Commission Projects
  - Richmond Public Library: Bob Weekes reported that funds for replicating the former belfry and installing its bell, plus 3 of the building's original shutters, on the Library will have to be raised by the RHC as the Library trustees and BOS will not contribute to this project; the Commission accepted Steve Laflam's estimate for this work if it goes forward.
  - Town Signage: Bob reported that the first three signs are in production and should be installed on their respective sites in early June. These include the Town Hall (directional) and Town Well (historic), funded by the town, and the newly restored Tramp House, funded by the RHS. Additional signs are in the planning stage with Johnson Signs.
  - Brewer Park: Carol Jameson and Bob reported on their meeting with Ed Atkins, new owner of the former Gerry Brewer house at the Four Corners, on plans for Brewer Park. Ed enthusiastically supports the plan and has offered to work with the RHC on its installation. Next steps: Carol will draft an easement for Ed's signature; Ed is checking on setbacks; Bob will prepare a site plan and stake the property; RCDA is to remove kiosks to the store lot across the street; Sandy Laughner will arrange installation of iron ring on the hitching post; Bob will work with Ed and Peter Kimball on site preparation, will talk with Steve Laflam about park edging, is working with Johnson Signs on designing park signage, and is working on antique well pump fabrication for the site. Out-of-pocket costs for the park are estimated at around \$1600 thus far, hoping that volunteer labor can be arranged.
  - The Commission reviewed Bob's cost estimates for the three 2016 Heritage Commission Projects listed above relative to current RHC funds (most raised privately) and voted to proceed immediately on all three projects.
- Other ongoing projects
  - Pail Mill artifacts: some have been removed from the Holman Barn and moved to temporary storage; others will follow shortly; plans for moving the three iron pail-making machines have been put on hold until a place to store them can be found. Bob will keep John Holman apprised. As time permits the RHC will search for someone in town who could help us by consulting with the Winchendon Historic Society on that organization's experience with pail making machines.

- Landscaping: Carol and Susie Roney reported on continuing improvements (additional plantings and mulch) to landscaping on Town-owned sites including Town Hall and the Town Well which by now are easily apparent to passersby.
- Viewfinder: Bob showed the Commissioners an article in the current issue of *Viewfinder*, the magazine of the international Leica Society, showing the Richmond Tramp House. Richmond resident and Leica Society member, Norm Woodward, wrote the article which includes photos of the Monadnock Region (including our Tramp House) and points out that our little mini-museum now has “international recognition!” This copy of the *Viewfinder* will be placed in the Richmond Archives.
- Carol has outlined current Heritage Commission activities in an article that will appear in the June issue of the Richmond Rooster.
- Forward Planning
  - The RHC then reviewed a Power Point presentation prepared by Bob, based on commissioner input during on-site visits, which outlines an ambitious and major future town improvement project. Further input was given and plans discussed for moving this project forward through channels.

The extremely busy meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.