

## *RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION*

Minutes (DRAFT) of Board Meeting held on 11/18/15 at the Weekes barn at 3:30 pm

Present: Carol Jameson, Chair; Bonnie McCarthy, Treasurer; Bob Weekes, Sec'y; Sandy Laughner; Susan Roney; Hank Hallas, Alternate. Also attending: Jan Weekes, representing the Richmond Public Library.

Minutes of the last meeting on 10/21/15 were approved as presented.

Bonnie McCarthy presented the Treasurer's Report, asking that all outstanding expenses be submitted as soon as possible as we approach the end of our fiscal year.

Martin Mills Artifacts: Sandy and Susie reported that they had organized and put into cartons the lighter weight pail artifacts (staves, hoops, bottoms, bunks, handles, etc.) offered to the Town by John Holman which lay scattered about his barn on Mill Road. These lighter cartons will be moved shortly to Susie's barn for temporary storage. The heavy metal machines used in the pail making process will remain where they are while the Town and the RHC search for space to store them. Bob Weekes is keeping John Holman apprised of developments and will photograph the artifacts before they are removed with the intention of obtaining an estimate of their value for tax purposes for the donor.

The Telephone Building was discussed as a possible town-owned storage space for the pail making artifacts if the floor and roof systems could be repaired. It was agreed that Carol would ask builder Steve LaFlamme to submit an estimate for basic repairs to stabilize the building, and perhaps another for full building restoration as well, as the RHC approaches its budgeting for 2016.

2016 Projects: the Commissioners then discussed a number of town historic preservation projects on its drawing board with a view to assigning priority to the ones we would tackle, and therefore budget for, in 2016. It was noted that the Heritage Commission, while a Town sanctioned organization, is an advisory group that attempts to accomplish its projects primarily using volunteer labor and funds raised through private donations and grants rather than relying solely on funds appropriated by town warrant. This is apparent when one considers that the town contributed only \$500 toward RHC activities in 2015 while the cost of the Tramp House restoration alone exceeded \$9000. This method of operating requires the Commission to be very realistic in setting its goals each year. Our projects, in order to earn town support, must be highly desirable, doable and visible. With that in mind, the RHC agreed to concentrate on the following priority projects in 2016:

- 1) Working with the Richmond Public Library Trustees, building a cupola exactly like the one that originally stood on the roof of School House #6 (on the National Register of Historic Places and pictured in the photographic mural inside the library); installing in it the original school house bell that sits in the library basement; and also

restoring and reinstalling the library's black shutters on its front windows which are presently stored in its attic.

- 2) Installing another vest pocket park on private land in the former Town Common in front of the home where Gerry Brewer lived for many years. This small park would center the 4 Corners area and would embrace an original town well, recreating the watering trough and iron pump that once stood there, an "historic" directional road sign, and would be appropriately landscaped. It would be dedicated to Gerry Brewer who lived there for many years and was much loved by Richmond residents. This project would be jointly accomplished by the RHC working with Gerry's descendants and paid for with funds raised privately.
- 3) Developing a plan to stabilize the town-owned Telephone Building for possible storage purposes and future restoration.
- 4) Presenting to town residents next spring the results of Hank Hallas' research into Richmond's Civil War veterans. This is a planned first step into the longer term process of installing a Civil War monument in the Memorial Park next to the Vets Hall, listing their names.

It was further agreed that the above projects would be presented to town residents as part of a town-wide celebration being planned by the RHC to take place early next year.

Also discussed were plans for holding an open house on Saturday, November 28, 10am to 2 pm, at the Tramp House to celebrate its completion. This time would coincide with Public Library hours where a new History Wall exhibit chronicling the Tramp House's restoration will be on display.

The next RHC board meeting will be held on 12/16/15 at 3:30pm at the Vets Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 6pm.

Bob Weekes, Secretary