

Minutes (Draft) of Richmond Heritage Commission Meeting
3/20/17, Vets Hall, 3:30pm

Present: Carol Jameson, Chair; Bonnie McCarthy, Treasurer; Bob Weekes, Sec'y; Susan Roney.
Absent: Sandy Laughner; Hank Hallas (Alternate). Richmond Historical Society guests: Jerry Mills, John Lewis

- Minutes of the preceding meeting were approved as presented.
- Bonnie gave the Treasurer's Report.
- Vets Hall Project: Carol reported that the BOS intends to proceed in 2017 with the expansion of the parking lot and the installation of a retaining wall at the north side of the building; and is willing to stump and remove boulders from part of the cleared area (half way toward the west end of the logged area?) in order to create a green space to properly set off the Vets Hall and its immediate area. This would not include the entire logged area as originally proposed by the RHC for the creation of a larger town park. Also, the BOS wants to leave unchanged the present roadway from the front parking area around the rear of the Vets Hall and exiting on the south side of the Memorial Park.

Accordingly, Bob Weekes will meet with Mark Beal and John Holman to discuss their suggestions for locating the expanded parking area and will prepare a new site plan for the reduced green space favored by the Town that will surround the Vets Hall, Memorial Park and Telephone Building. Also discussed was RHC's intention of working with the Richmond Historical Society on the planning of an improved Memorial Park and the installation of a second monument honoring Richmond's Civil War Veterans. Included in this discussion was backfilling the plot to level it and surrounding it with a proper stone wall using stones to be cleared from the larger green space by the Town.

- Brewer Park: Carol will continue her attempts to meet with Ed Atkins to secure the signed easement required by the Town.
- Telephone Building: all noted the repair (new roof, trim work) made thus far by the Heritage Commission at its own expense to this handsome one-room building. Further work (new floor and ceiling, door frame and door) will await future funding. To this end Carol will explore with the BOS whether funds that had been earmarked for the possible destruction of the building, should that have been necessary, might be applied to its further restoration. Removal of a few remaining trees and rocks surrounding the building may be handled as part of the Town's clearing of the green space. Painting of the Telephone Building and landscaping will be done by Heritage Commission volunteers.
- Middle of Town Cemetery: Jerry Mills and John Lewis stated that the Richmond Historical Society would like to improve the appearance of the now visible (now that the trees have been cut) burial vault on the south entrance of the Town Hall behind the restored Town Well and Watering Trough. Included would be repointing of the stone

work and sand blasting and repairing a hinge on the metal door. Carol will discuss with Bill Coll of the Richmond Cemetery Committee.

- Quaker Cemetery: Carol said the Town intended to send a quitclaim deed to the Rhode Island Quaker group to transfer title for the cemetery to the Town of Richmond. The Historical Society has volunteered to continue its caretaking responsibilities for the cemetery. The Town will produce the promised signage denoting its history.
- Tramp House: Carol is working on an educational program that could be used by teachers to explain the significance of our restored Tramp House to school children. Bonnie McCarthy volunteered to assist in this endeavor. Input for this project will be gathered from the Library's forthcoming presentation of 18th and 19th century NH welfare practices to be given in May by the NH Humanities Council at the Vets Hall.
- Town Pound: Jerry Mills and John Lewis, officers of the Richmond Historical Society which holds an easement to the Town Pound site, agreed to modify their easement to include the Richmond Heritage Commission which is an organization officially sanctioned by the Town of Richmond. This will open up the possibility of further collaboration on restoration of the historic Town Pound by all concerned. Carol Jameson will pursue legal paper work with the town's attorney.
- The Historical Society showed the commission members three diaries in its collections written by Harold Dickinson when he was a superintendent of the Fish Hatchery, and discussed its proposal of holding a town event recalling its early days. Next steps to be determined.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm.

Bob Weekes, Secretary