

RICHMOND HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes (draft) of Board Meeting held on 9/28/16 at 3:30pm, at the Vets Hall

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

- Minutes of previous meeting were approved as presented.
- Bonnie McCarthy presented the Treasurer's Report. Current Heritage Commission projects and their attendant costs were reviewed, considering the commission's capacity to help fund each out of funds remaining in the budget for 2016.
- Firemen's Barbecue - the Commission's activities (RHC table, presentation of the Library with its restored shutters and belfry, ceremonial ringing of the Library bell, and open house at the Tramp House) during the annual Firemen's Barbecue were reviewed. All felt our efforts were well received.
- Public Library Project – the new (replicated) belfry and original school bell, plus restored window shutters, have now been installed on the former School House #6 which now looks like the school house it once was. This 2016 RHC Project was completed as planned and on schedule. RPL Trustees have agreed that further work (such as treating the bell to remove rust and painting the underside of the belfry) will be their responsibility.
- Brewer Park – Carol discussed the need for more time to complete and have the Brewer heirs sign the easement for the mini-park. Since RHC work on the site cannot begin until this is done, the timetable for this work will have to be extended. Bob reviewed a letter, approved with one suggestion, to be delivered to Donna Brewer the next day.
- Civil War Project – Hank has postponed his presentation of research into Richmond's Civil War veterans into 2017. In discussing this the Commission felt it would be beneficial to have concrete plans for improving the design and appearance of the Memorial Park in hand when this presentation takes place to build community support and make the event more family oriented. All hoped this can be arranged well in advance of the 2017 Town Meeting.
- "Town Green" – Carol reported that the town is working on a plan whereby the recently logged Vets Hall area can be cleared of boulders and stumps later this fall. Carol and Bob have developed preliminary work specs, including a rough plan for expanding the parking area, which can be reviewed with Mark Beal at the appropriate time if it appears that this work can go forward. Hopefully that will allow time to inform residents of the longer term benefits of the Town Green Project prior to drafting a warrant article.
- Telephone Building – the Commission reviewed a cost estimate submitted by Steve Laflam to restore the Telephone Building near the Vets Hall which would be integrated with the broader Town Green Project. The Commission agreed to put a

new roof on the building to stabilize it while the future of the Town Green Plan is decided. This protection of the building is similar to the steps RHC took to stabilize the Tramp House prior to its restoration in 2015.

- Landscaping – Carol and Jan Weekes have added plantings along the fence of the Tramp House and are investigating adding a tree to the grassy area. They are also working on finishing touches to the plantings in front of the Town Hall and a request for plants next to the Police Station.
- Public relations – an article discussing the completion of the Library Project will appear in the October issue of the Richmond Rooster. The Commission asked Bob to see if the two-page flyer he prepared for distribution at the Firemen’s Barbecue can be adapted for a future issue of the Rooster. The Historical Society of Cheshire County has asked if the Commission would submit an article on the Tramp House to be printed in the Keene Sentinel. This request was approved by the RHC. The Commission also agreed to join HSCC’s Roundtable Forum and to pay \$10 to become members of the Association of Historical Societies of New Hampshire, an organization which a group working with Jennifer Carroll hopes to revive. Bob will follow up on all.
- Martin Pail Mill artifacts – Carol reported that Parks and Rec is willing to share space in the Amidon Shed for artifacts RHC has been trying to save from the Holman barn on Mill Road. This news came just in time as the barn is scheduled to be taken down starting the week of 10/3/2016. Carol, Sandy and Bob will coordinate moving the artifacts before demolition takes place. Susie will continue efforts to schedule a meeting with the Winchendon Historical Society to see if future collaboration might contribute to a display (somewhere in Richmond) of our town’s main industry 100 years ago.
- Bob reported that the RHC was a co-signer of a Delaware Riverkeepers Network petition by 180 environmental and advocacy organizations urging US congress and senate committees to investigate abuses by FERC in its handling of Liquid Natural Gas projects on behalf of the energy industry. The RHC joined this effort as a result of our activities fighting the Kinder Morgan pipeline in Richmond. Early reports indicate this new petition is having a positive impact with legislators.
- Bob also discussed a suggestion by a Richmond resident that the RHC consider the possibility of saving and restoring the Eddie Martin Sugar House at the end of Fish Hatchery Road. All expressed interest and Bob will look into feasibility.
- The next meeting was scheduled for 11/9/2016 at the Vets Hall at 3:30pm.
- Meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Bob Weekes, Sec’y