

Minutes (Draft) of Richmond Heritage Commission Meeting  
12/21/16, Vets Hall, 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 were approved as presented.
- Bonnie McCarthy gave the Treasurer's Report. The Commission has exhausted the 2016 town appropriation of \$1000 and spent more than three times that amount out of privately raised funds on its projects for the past year. However, the Commission will still finish the year in the black, thanks to some generous private donations and to prudent management. The amount of town funds the RHC will request by warrant article to help fund its 2017 projects will be \$1000, the same as last year.
- Brewer Park – the Commission will re-send to Ed Atkins a copy of the easement prepared by the town for his signature. Carol Jameson will discuss with Steve Laflam Joe Tonweber's offer of used railroad ties as park edging. It is likely site preparation and other park tasks will be postponed until spring when the ground will have thawed.
- Town Green – this project was discussed in great detail because it has many parts that potentially would involve different town organizations at different times if it goes forward. Carol reported on Ann McIntee's initial observations on the RHC's preliminary plans for the park from a landscaper's point of view. These will be studied in more detail by the commissioners for discussion at our next meeting.  
In the meantime the full commission felt it would be prudent to scale back the size of our initial plan and concentrate on a Phase I area which extends from Rte. #32 westward to the existing N/S stone wall through the recently logged land. This strip of land abuts the highway and runs from the Telephone Building site at the south end, north to the end of the present parking lot beyond the Vets Hall. As such, we would be focusing our planning not only on the three areas of greatest historical importance (Telephone Building, Memorial Park and Vets Hall) but on the area most visible to those passing on Old Homestead Highway.  
Carol will discuss with Steve Laflam whether repairs to the roof of the Telephone Building can be made this month or will have to be put off until next year.
- Town Pound – Bob Weekes reported on the status of the Commission's investigations into the possible restoration of the Richmond Town Pound located on the Cantrell property across from the Vets Hall. The pound is one of Richmond's most significant surviving historic assets, sitting astride our heavily traveled north-south highway, and likely dates back before the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Research into the feasibility of stone wall restoration will continue, including its potential costs and what would be required for the Town and RHC to steer and underwrite a project of this magnitude. Importantly, the RHC is studying how similar projects have been successfully completed by other New England towns.
- Quaker Cemetery – Carol updated Commissioners on the status of her discussions with the Rhode Island Quakers who have indicated their willingness to sign the deed for the

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property over to the Town of Richmond. It is hoped that the RHC and the Quakers will collaborate on appropriate historic signage marking the site.

- Martin Mills Artifacts – Susie Roney and Sandy Laughner reported on the recent visit by Heritage Commission members to the Winchendon Historical Society to see its exhibition of pail industry artifacts.

Commissioners then discussed what role the RHC should play in storing Richmond historical artifacts, particularly the pail machinery donated by John Holman. It was noted that our mission is the preservation and proper presentation principally of Richmond's historical sites. As is well known in Richmond, our town does not have a proper place to store its town-owned archival assets. Town-owned records, photographs and other ephemera, are in safe temporary storage in the Keene Records Center until our town can find a local solution to this problem. Other non-town-owned historical archival material, we understand, is stored in private homes, held hopefully until a proper facility can be found here in town. In the meantime the Heritage Commission, on several occasions, has been called upon to accept custodianship of additional historical artifacts that have come to light.

Having no other options, RHC's concern for Richmond's history led us to get involved. However, we regretfully have come to the conclusion that storage of archival matter is beyond both our mission and certainly our capacity. It is a town matter. Therefore Susie will contact the Winchendon Historical Society to explore whether it has any interest in the Martin Pail Mill artifacts that the RHC is currently storing in Richmond. If that does not produce a solution we will have to explore other ways to dispose of these artifacts.

- Town Report – the RHC will shortly submit its write-up for the Annual Report. Bob will send Carol photos for possible inclusion.
- RHC publicity – the Keene Sentinel ran a feature article written by Bob on the Richmond Tramp House in the November 26<sup>th</sup> issue. Copies of this article are posted at Town Hall, the Library, Vets Hall and in the Tramp House itself. Articles on the Commission's 2017 projects are planned for the Richmond Rooster.
- Tramp House – Carol is exploring whether children's educational programs can be the built around Richmond's Tramp House and plans to discuss same with Jenna Carroll, Education Director of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. Carol has also offered, as a winter project, applying to the State Registry of Historic Places for adding our restored Tramp House Museum to the Registry.
- RHC membership – all commissioners plan to continue their membership into 2017. The group discussed the possibility of adding additional alternate members to help with our workload. Our Chair, Carol, will follow up on this suggestion.
- The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, January 25h at 3:30pm.
- Meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully, submitted,  
Bob Weekes, Secretary