

FINAL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Richmond Heritage Commission  
Held on April, 15, 2015 at 3:30PM in the Vets Hall

Attending: Carol Jameson (Chair), Sandy Laughner, Susan Roney, Bob Weekes (Sec'y), Bonnie McCarthy, Hank Hallas (alternate)

Minutes of the last meeting on 3/18/15 were approved as presented.

The Heritage Commission approved a change in its membership whereby Bonnie McCarthy will replace Hank Hallas as a regular member with Hank becoming alternate with a new term.

Resultant membership composition is:

Carol Jameson, term expiring 2016

Sandy Laughner, term expiring 2016

Bonnie McCarthy, term expiring 2017

Bob Weekes, term expiring 2017

Susan Roney, term expiring 2018 (replaced Susan Marston, reappointed)

Hank Hallas, Alternate, new term expiring 2018

Bonnie McCarthy was approved as Acting Treasurer for the Commission's checking account (while the Town Treasurer still has jurisdiction over appropriations by the town for Heritage Commission projects). Bonnie updated all on Commission finances including the 2015 town appropriation of \$500, as well as contributions that are coming in from others who support Heritage Commission projects in general and the Tramp House restoration in particular. We are awaiting receipt of a \$500 grant received from the Terra Nova Trust, a donor-advised fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, for the Tramp House and will be making application for a Moose license Plate Grant shortly.

Carol Jameson reported that the Tramp House was granted eligibility for inclusion on the NH Register of Historic Places, a prerequisite for applying for a Moose Plate Grant. Like the State Registry application, the Moose Plate Grant application is a very detailed and time consuming process which must be completed and submitted by April 24, 2015. Knowing that competition for a Moose Plate Grant is particularly fierce and that the time remaining to submit the application is very short, Carol and Bob Weekes will continue working on this, endeavoring to complete the application in the time remaining. The Commission believes we cannot wait until next year to apply for this grant but need to begin restoration this summer for a building that is in serious danger of further deterioration. Even if we are lucky enough to receive such a grant, only half of those funds would be available in the early part of August, the time when actual restoration can begin.

Bonnie reported that the Tramp House project has received an outpouring of support including 10 letters and three pages of emails from state legislators and community leaders, and 123 signers of a local petition urging its restoration. This public support will be included in the grant application.

Hank raised the question of how the Commission should handle donor requests which were specific in nature and not part of the current Tramp House project discussion. Carol responded and it was agreed that such donations, when made should include a note regarding any such restrictions as to their use.

Hank shared with the Commissioners that he has committed (at his expense) further detailed research to be done by the Cheshire Historical Society volunteers on Richmond men's service who participated in the Civil War on behalf of Richmond. He will share this information once it is completed. He also briefly shared his experience regarding his attendance at the major National three day event at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

Next steps on the Tramp House Project include developing a town-wide fundraising plan (to be unveiled in the June issue of the Rooster, closing May 10<sup>th</sup>!); completing a site survey preparatory to developing a Tramp House park design which will delineate the exact location of the building, its parking area, fencing, paths and landscaping; site preparation (backfilling with gravel and loam); and installing a new cement foundation. A walkthrough of the site by Commission members and volunteers will be conducted shortly to address these steps. Although each of the above tasks have different timetables, all are targeted for completion prior to August 1, 2015, when we hope to begin the actual building restoration whether or not we receive a Moose Plate Grant.

To that end, Bob has been compiling a list of organizations which give grants for historic and cultural preservation. Because our present Commission workload is quite heavy, we face a very real problem of manpower devoted to pursuing other grant opportunities. The Commission is looking for more volunteers to help with this initiative. In the meantime, Bob will forward the list of grant organizations to Bonnie and Susan Roney who will begin a preliminary screening.

The forthcoming meeting between Kinder-Morgan representatives and town residents on April 27<sup>th</sup> was discussed. Heritage Commission members, some wearing anti-pipeline t-shirts, will participate.

Carol reported on progress in forming a volunteer crew to address town landscaping needs at the newly restored Town Well and Memorial Watering Trough, the Town Hall itself and the Vets Hall. As noted in last month's minutes, she has already secured the help of Marc Hudson of The Inspired Gardner in Westmoreland, who has volunteered to consult on these projects and will sell us plants at his cost.

Carol adjourned the meeting at 5:25pm.