

DRAFT

Minutes of the Richmond Heritage Commission  
held on Wednesday, June 17, 2015 at 3:00PM in the Vets Hall

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

Minutes of the previous meeting on 4/30/15 were approved as presented.

Bonnie McCarthy gave the Treasurer's Report, noting the immediate response generated by the Tramp House Fundraising Program that began only three weeks earlier. Contributions are continuing to come in from residents, relatives and friends, indicating that restoration of this historic building is garnering widespread support both within the Richmond community and beyond.

Bob Weekes then reviewed the Commission's progress made on the Tramp House Restoration Project since the last RHC meeting, starting with designing and implementing the fundraising program itself, including publicity and targeted mailings, signage at the park site, and coordination of timing and production schedules for the work that will be required from volunteers as we go forward. A major first step was completed only two days earlier when initial site preparation was completed on the town-owned land across from the Library where the history park will be located. Special thanks go to Mark Beal and John Holman and their crews for their work preparing the site next to the wetlands, and the Richmond Conservation Commission which donated the wattles separating the site from the adjacent wetlands.

Thanks to fundraising momentum and our growing corps of volunteers, rehabilitation of the Tramp House is precisely on target and movement of and actual restoration of the historic structure is planned for the beginning of August, 2015. At that time we will learn whether or not we might possibly be awarded a Moose License Plate Grant from the state which will help pay for some of the expenses involved. It remains the hope of the Richmond Heritage Commission that restoration of the Tramp House within its own small history park and parking area will be accomplished during calendar 2015!

Discussion then turned to our next major Heritage Commission initiative, the Civil War Project. Commissioner Hank Hallas, who was instrumental in researching and helping install the Revolutionary War Memorial adjacent to the Vets Hall, is spearheading this initiative whose ultimate goal is the recognition and proper commemoration of all Richmond residents who served in the Civil War, America's most tragic in terms of its casualties. Hank gave a current update on the progress of his research over the past year and a half, hoping to document not only Richmond's contributions to this conflict in terms of manpower but also the impact of the war itself on life in Richmond a century and a half ago.

Susie Roney and Sandy Laughner then reported on plans for landscaping the Town Well & Watering Trough as well as other historic sites within the sights of the Heritage Commission.

This work will kick into high gear when Carol Jameson returns from vacation (with our workload, we need “all hands” to continue what has proven to be a hectic pace of activity), along with other ancillary projects such as universal signage for Richmond’s historic sites and buildings which require approval and oversight by the BOS. As with all projects on our drawing board we will continue to seek collaboration with town committees, commissions and other organizations that are willing to help us preserve Richmond’s history. That process has been working beautifully.

Finally, in support of Richmond’s opposition to the Kinder-Morgan Pipeline, Hank Hallas reported on work he completed listing known historic sites which will be impacted by the pipeline’s proposed path. This list of sites was given to Carol Jameson for further discussion and were prepared on a best effort basis. He said there were 5 first-settlers sites (two existing structures) either on the pipeline route or within 1000 feet. Additionally he explained that these 5 sites were north of Route 119 and west of Route 32 and that it was his considered opinion that an additional 5-plus sites could be found north of Route 119 and east of Route 32 since first settlers were seeded in that grid of lots and ranges back when the town was laid out in 1752. He mentioned that these additional sites were likely historically significant as well as a few more at the west side of town north on Brickyard Brook.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:37pm.

Bob Weekes, Secretary