

TOWN OF NEWPORT
Heritage Commission Meeting
Minutes of May 22, 2023 6:00 pm
Municipal Building - Newport, NH 03773
Board of Selectmen's Room/ 15 Sunapee Street

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Virginia Irwin, Chairman; Jacqueline Cote and Michael Loftus

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: BOS Representative

STAFF PRESENT: none

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. followed by a roll call.

MINUTES: April 24, 2023

On a motion by Mrs. Cote, seconded by Mr. Loftus; *the Commission voted to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2023 meeting with the following amendments:*

- 1) *Page one: under Guest Speakers. Amanda Rode should be Amanda Sanders*
- 2) *Page three: paragraph two line one: "...once he is the owner" ...should be... "once it has transferred ownership"*
- 3) *Page three: paragraph four: delete the last sentence ("If the...immediately")*

The amended motion passed 4-0-0.

PUBLIC HEARING: none

PUBLIC COMMENTS: none

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Rules of Procedure

The updated Rules of Procedure were not available for the Commission to vote on. It was noted by members that the Heritage Commission webpage has not been updated.

Heritage Commission Recruitment

Chairman Irwin stated the newly appointed BOS representative/alternate to the Heritage Commission was not in attendance. The need for additional members was discussed. Chairman Irwin will ask Herbert Teller, Jr. if he will consider being an alternate.

Combining Heritage Commission, Historic District and Monuments and Memorial Committee

Chairman Irwin said combining the Heritage Commission, Historic District and Monuments and Memorial Committee had not been discussed at the May 1st BOS meeting. The subject was supposed to be discussed by the Selectboard at their meeting. The Selectmen also needed to approve the process for the Monuments and Memorial Committee.

Main Street DOT updates

Chairman Irwin read aloud a letter dated June 28, 2022 from Dillan Schmidt, Environmental Manager; NHDOT Bureau of Environment. Mr. Schmidt had asked for input from the Heritage Commission. She will ask Town administration why the letter was never given to the Heritage Commission.

She asked the Commissioners if they will be interested in acting as an advisory board to the DOT as they finalize plans for Main Street. There was a discussion on the route and historic buildings along the proposed route of resurfacing. All members said they will be interested in acting as advisory board members to the NHDOT. Chairman Irwin will follow-up with a letter to Mr. Schmidt stating the Commission is interested in an advisory role. They would want to make sure there were no ramps in front of the Opera House. The Heritage Commission can invite the NHDOT to one of their meetings to discuss the project. Chairman Irwin stated that the Main Street Parking/Striping Committee had presented a locally controlled proposal to the Board of Selectmen. Their proposal was stated to the Commissioners. It is unknown if the Selectboard will follow their request.

Chairman Irwin expressed her concern that the Selectboard did not take the Heritage Commission seriously.

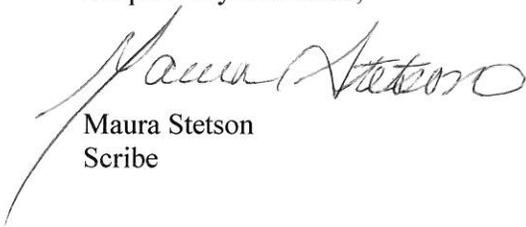
Recap:

Chairman Irwin will respond to Mr. Schmidt's letter; see why it took one year to be delivered to the Heritage Commission.

- Website Update
- Heritage Commission Recruitment
- New Selectmen Reps.
- Date for next meeting (June 26th if needed)
- Rules of Procedure
- Letter to the Ruger Mill agents and tour of Mill

There being nothing else to come before the Commission on a motion by Mrs. Cote, seconded by Mr. Loftus; *the Heritage Commission adjourned at 6:53 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Maura Stetson".

Maura Stetson
Scribe

Approved on June 26, 2023