

TOWN OF NEWPORT, NH
Minutes of the NH Heritage Commission
May 22, 2017 – 6:00 P.M.
Board of Selectmen’s Room
15 Sunapee Street
Regular Meeting and Public Hearing

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cathryn Baird, Chairman; Brian Kelly, Alternate; John Hooper, Ken Vigue

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dean Stetson and Virginia Irwin

VIDEOGRAPHER: none

STAFF PRESENT: Julie M. Magnuson, Planning and Zoning Administrator

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Baird called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by a roll call.

MINUTES: January 9, 2017

Chairman Baird introduced minutes dated January 9, 2017 for review. Members agreed.

On a motion by John Hooper, seconded by Brian Kelly; *the Board voted to accept the January 9, 2017 minutes. The Motion passed with complete consensus.*

Public Business:

2017-HCCOA-001: Richards Free Library request A Certificate of Approval for the proposed expansion of their existing parking lot. The property is identified as Map 111 Lot 024 and is located at 58 North Main Street in the Light Commercial (B-1), Professional Business (PB), and Town Common (State) Historic (TCHD) Zoning Districts.

Chairman Baird opened Case 2017-HCCOA-001: Richards Free Library and read it into record. Chairman Baird stated applicant requests an approval of the Richards Free Library parking lot expansion.

Underwood Engineers, LLC, Peter Pitsas, P.E. (agent) took the floor and presented a map titled Site Plan Parking Lot Improvements Richards Free Library dated January 25, 2016 outlining the request for a Richards Free Library parking lot expansion. The library is exempt from zoning requirement regarding parking widths which is currently nine (9). Drainage will be designed to run off into the parking area and will not affect abutter’s properties. A new catch-basin will be placed off of Belknap Avenue to insure adequate water drainage. Wheel-stops will be placed two plus feet from the fence and pavement) to create a barrier between abutter’s fencing and risk of damage. Removal of seven (7) trees are purposed. The Library agrees to replant trees. The purposed duration of project is between two (2) to (3) weeks and completion date is scheduled for August 2017.

Ms. Pitsas, Project Manager, provided the scribe with an email address:
ppitsas@underwoodengineers.com.

Ms. Taylor, Architectural Historian, provided the scribe with an email address:
ataylor@kleinfeilder.com.

Mike Jarvis (abutter) raised concerns over his fencing and risk of damage, along with drainage.

General discussion took place regarding the importance of replanting the trees that are removed through the reconstruction of parking lot, the twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars USDA Rural Development grant provided to the Richards Free Library, the net increase of 18 parking spaces, public concerns regarding big trucks accessing the road that aligns the Library, the Underwood Engineers, LLC., performed the parking lot design, Carry Whipple performing that actual parking lot construction, drainage route concern, and wheel-stops to protect neighboring fencing.

On motion by John Hooper, seconded by Ken Vigue: ***the Board voted to approve 2017-HCCOA-001: Richards Free Library parking lot expansion with the addition of the tree replacement twelve (12) months from the completion of project. The Motion passed with complete consensus.***

Administration: none

New Business:

Oak Street Bridge: Amanda Taylor, representative from Kleinfelder, requests discussion of the mitigation measures for the removal of the Oak Street Bridge, aka: Green Iron Bridge.

Chairman Baird opened New Business discussion. Mrs. Baird explains that Ms. Taylor is present to discuss the removal and concerns regarding the Oak Street Bridge (also, known as the Green Iron Bridge) in North Newport.

Amanda Taylor and Thom Marshall from Kleinfelder took the floor and presented the Board with a document titled *Meeting Agenda, Newport, NH – Oak Street Bridge Project, and Newport Heritage Commission* dated May 22, 2017. Key points discussed were as followed:

Project Status Update:

Thom Marshall explained their agency has received approval from both the NH DOT and the Town to proceed forward with the project design. Currently, the project remains in the preliminary design phase. Kleinfelder recommends a complete replacement of the Oak Street Bridge replacing it with a conventional single span steel girder bridge located at the east abutment near the “factory” and lengthening the existing span in the intent to improve hydraulics.

Section 106 Update:

Mr. Marshall explains Section 106 Process is required whenever a historic asset is affected. Ms. Taylor explains there is a federal action under Section 106 Process that requires the consideration in projects to establish properties eligible or listed in the Historic Registry that will be affected by the purposed project. Review of the Sibly Site Factory, Farmer Draper Mill and the bridge itself was conducted.

NHDOT and NHDHR concurred with the following findings:

- Sibly Site Factory (located at the east abutment of the bridge) is eligible for the Historic Register. Therefore, the Sibly Site Factory *is adversely affected* by this project. Removing the bridge affects the setting of the factory site.

- Draper Corporation located down from the bridge at the west end is not eligible for the Historic Register. Therefore, the Draper Corporation *is not adversely affected by this project*.
- The existing bridge is eligible for the Historic Register. Therefore, the bridge itself *is adversely effected* by the project.

Sample Mitigation Measures:

Ms. Taylor explains the following:

- As result of the adverse effects, Kleinfelder is required to proceed with Mitigation Measures. Mitigation should explain what the public is losing by removing the property and how this information can be brought to light.
- Mitigation notices are not required for land owner abutters.

Option 1 – RECORDATION

Record a narrative and visual history of the Oak Street Bridge property.

Price of the Recordation combined with booklet is estimated ten thousand (\$10,000).

Eligible, aligned with the construction process, for eighty (80%) percent funded by NHDOT funding.

Option 2 – OUTDOOR or INDOOR INTERPRETIVE PANEL

Mini traveling and/or permanent exhibits.

Provides the public with a narrative and visual history of the Oak Street Bridge property.

Price of the Indoor Interpretive Panel is estimated at five hundred and sixty-seven dollars (\$567.00) for one (1) large and five (5) small panels to print them on that can travel inside and outside for public display. This expense does not include the resurrection of panels.

Eligible, aligned with the construction process, for eighty (80%) percent funded by NHDOT funding.

Price of the Outdoor Interpretive Panel is undetermined. These panels are affixed permanently outdoors for public location display.

Eligible, aligned with the construction process, for eighty (80%) percent funded by NHDOT funding.

Option 2 – BOOKLET

Narrative and visual history of the Oak Street Bridge in book format.

Files in Desktop Publishing Software used.

Files dispersed to the Town for use at the Town's discretion.

Price of Recordation and Booklet together is estimated at ten thousand (\$10,000).

Eligible, aligned with the construction process, for eighty (80%) percent funded by NHDOT funding.

Ms. Taylor explained NHDHR requires 36CFR qualified individuals to conduct the research, supervision and writing throughout the mitigation project.

Mr. Marshall explained that some of mitigation expenses may be eligible to be absorbed by the already existing construction funds. The mitigation options must be done part of construction in order to

receive eighty (80%) reimbursement from NHDOT. The Town is responsible for paying the upfront costs that are outside the existing construction funds available for mitigation.

On motion by Ken Vigue, seconded by John Hooper: *the Board accepted the recommendation for an outdoor interpretive panel to be located on the Town property The Motion passed with complete consensus.*

On a motion by John Hooper, seconded by Ken Vigue; *the Board adjourned at 7:01 p.m. The motion passed with complete consensus.*

Respectfully submitted,

Kymerly Kenney
Scribe

Approved on: