

Approved: March 12, 2012

**MERRIMACK HERITAGE COMMISSION
APPROVED MINUTES
FEBRUARY 13, 2012**

ATTENDANCE: Anita Creager, Lexi Keef, Lynne Wenz, Finlay Rothhaus. Absent: Debra Bult and Janice Brown. This constitutes a quorum.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:02 PM

REVIEW AND APPROVAL of JANUARY MINUTES: We had no draft copy to review, but did discuss contents of personal notes.

MEMBERSHIP STATUS: Still seeking one more member and two alternates.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Report to Town Council: Was made on Feb. 9.

Display Case: Question whether the video was made by media services, and if so, where and when it can be seen.

Portraits for Town Hall: Per suggestion of Town Council at Feb. 9th meeting, we will investigate possibility of having the art department at Merrimack High School create a portrait of James Mastricola using the pen/ink drawing at Mastricola Elementary School and the snapshot provided by Mastricola's grand nephew. Anita will provide a photo of the pen/ink drawing, and get a copy of the scanned view of the snapshot from Janice Brown. Lynne will follow up with the High School Art Department. Our preference is to hold a competition among students with a monetary prize. If appropriate, we will use the winning portrait for the Town Hall use, and hopefully provide two more for the JMUES and JMES for the other winners.

No further information on process of creating canvas prints. Discussed frame design. We do not wish for gilded frames, but something more traditional made of stained wood.

Action Item: Anita will provide photos for Lynne to take to MHS Art Dept. Lexi will get input from Chuck Mower about making frames.

Dam Plaque and Sign: The sign from Pennichuck has been ordered and Pennichuck plans to provide a boulder on which to mount it. DPW will install it near the fire station "moving the fence if necessary to provide space".

Chamberlain Bridge Sign: **Plan A** had been to engrave "Chamberlain Bridge" on the granite on the Eastern side of the bridge. This is not practical. **Plan B** had been to create a bronze sign of comparable size at that location. The Heritage Commission had balked at this due to cost (~\$3000) and danger of theft. **Plan C** had been to create a different style of sign on a raised post, waiting information on legally acceptable style, size and location. Per the Town Council meeting on Feb. 9, councilors preferred Plan B with a fund-raiser to cover costs. We are now at **Plan D**. This is to investigate an additional raised granite block on the east side of the bridge, with the words "Chamberlain Bridge" engraved on it. Anita will research this possibility.

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Action Item: Anita will research granite block.

Seaverns Bridge Sign: Cost of bronze plaque similar to that at Turkey Hill Bridge is about \$900. Discussed an aluminum one, which could be plated/painted.

Action Item: Anita to research feasibility and cost.

Town Tour Brochures: No action.

Action Item: Anita and Lexi to meet at 1:00 PM Saturday to review wording, to be followed at later date with photos.

Adaptive Reuse Plaques: We have an electronic listing of all buildings build before 1950.

Action Item: Lynne and Anita will work on data as to which already have signs, and which are practical to contact owners about new ones.

Town Master Plan Committee: No information as to whether Deb attended the January meeting. No minutes have been posted.

Freedom's Way Committee: They have received our \$50 membership fee. No meetings have been held since October's annual meeting. We are on their mailing list.

Cemeteries:

Turkey Hill project: Approved as an Eagle Scout project. Work will begin when ground thaws in the Spring. Lexi will provide orange t-shirts for volunteer use. The Scout may order white ones for sale as a fund-raiser. Lexi, Finlay, Lynne and Adam (DPW) want to be involved in volunteering with the Scouts.

Bowers' Grave: Lexi and Anita visited the site at 20 Powers Circle. The gravestone there is NOT an old one. The fence around the gravestone was removed with approval from the town planning board.

Action Items: Anita and Finlay will investigate legal requirements. Finlay will inquire with Dan Dwyer about his knowledge of the original grave and stone. Anita to ask Janice to research Bowers descendents.

Christmas Cards: We feel we should make additional choices of cards for the next holiday season. Some will be duplicated from first printing. Some of the new ones will be titled "Winter in Merrimack" rather than "Christmas in Merrimack". We want to add 10 new choices, including Wheeler Chapel and Simonds Rock in winter. Possibly one of the graveyards.

Action Items: Lynne will contact Ken Harvey, a professional photographer to see if he has some suitable nature photos. Anita will make list of possibilities for review by Commission members. Lexi will use her camera to get some photos when we get SNOW.

NEW BUSINESS: Noted existence of monument to a battle during the French and Indian War in a yard south of the old Shaw's on DW Highway.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:25 PM

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NEXT MEETING: March 12. 2012 at 7 PM in Community Development
Conference Room. Would like access to the Community Development files to do
Research on specific properties