

Merrimack Heritage Commission – Meeting Minutes 11-July-2022

Attendance: Heritage Commission – Chip Pollard, Barbara Healy, Anita Creager,

John Frechette

Guests – John Lastowka (Historical Society), Chuck Mower (Historical Society),

Orma Thompson

1905 hrs: Meeting called to order by Chip Pollard

1905 hrs: Membership

- Chip advised the Heritage Commission should present a plaque or award to Ralph Gerenz for his work with the Commission. Barbara advised that there is money in the budget for it. She suggested Chip speak with Town Manager Paul Micali to see if the Town wanted to be involved. Chip inquired about an engraved brick project in which we could have Ralph's name included. Barbara suggested Chip speak with Jennifer DeFelice.
- Speaking about the budget, Anita advised the monthly reports used to include a finance report.
- Orma Thompson advised she was seriously considering joining the Heritage Commission. She introduced herself and her love to preserve history. She is a NH native and lived in a lot of historic towns. Barbara explained the process required to be sworn in by the Town.
- Chip made a motion to elect John Frechette as Co-Chair of the Heritage Commission. Seconded by Anita. Motion passed 4-0-0.

1930 hrs: Review and approval of prior minutes

1935 hrs: Project Status: Bowers/Blanchard burial site

- Chip received a copy of David Palance's final report from Tricia Fair. Tricia requested that the report be kept confidential until all research is complete.
- Chip advised that Tricia has arranged for a different research company for a second opinion. He contacted Thomas More College and they agreed to allow another visit. It is currently scheduled for the first two weeks of August.
- Anita advised the College filed another 6-month extension with the Planning Board for their proposed construction.
- Chip advised Tucker Blanchard, Tricia's father, has old family films from the farm. He was hoping the footage might have images of the graveyard in the background. It is unknown what type or condition the film is in.
- Chip advised the Heritage Commission's interest in the project is to ensure that the graveyard is properly documented and recorded. Barbara advised that at the completion of the project the results should be forwarded to Town Manager Paul Micali, who oversees the graveyards for the Town.

- Chip advised there is a Champion Tree on the campus which is of interest. A large four-foot diameter apple tree which is hollowed out, but still supporting the life of the tree.
- Chip had photographs on his phone from the research at the College but was unable to broadcast them on the meeting room media.

2005 hrs: IT Technology

- John L. advised that the Historical Society has undergone a lot of improvements and renovations and has IT technology capable of broadcasting Chip's photos. John L. offered for the next meeting to be relocated to the Historical Society, and those members who have not been there could see the renovations.
- Barbara reminded us that it is important for the Heritage Commission and Historical Society to remain independent entities.
- It was agreed that the date and location of the next meeting be changed to August 15, 2022, at the Merrimack Historical Society.

2010 hrs: Signs for Historic Sites

- John suggested that the historical site signs should be of similar size and shape of the NH historical site markers. The top icon could change depending on the site designation, such as a firehouse or schoolhouse. It should be made of resin material.
- Chip provided a picture of a resin trail marker sign that is being used by the US Forest Service. Follow-up calls to USFS for information on their signs.

2035 hrs: Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: August 15, 2022, at the Merrimack Historical Society