

Merrimack Heritage Commission – Meeting Minutes 17-October-2022

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

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

1925 hrs: Meeting called to order by Chip Pollard

1925 hrs: Discussion about Quorum

- All the current appointed members were present for this meeting.
- There was a discussion regarding Barbara Healey as the Selectman Ex-officio Member to count toward establishing a quorum if needed. It was decided that her voting privilege would constitute inclusion in a quorum. We will review the by-laws for any contradiction.

1935 hrs: Review and approval of prior minutes

- The August and September meetings were canceled. A motion to accept the amended July meeting minutes passed unanimously.

1945 hrs: Project Status: Bowers/Blanchard burial site

- Chip advised that the plan for a second visit and study of the campus was canceled and is to be rescheduled due to varying health reasons from involved participants. We are hoping to reschedule efforts in the spring.
- Chip advised that the college is aware the burial site does lie in the vicinity that was studied.
- Barbara advised there have been no changes with the Planning Board and final approval for the site is still needed.
- John F. advised that a summary will be presented to the Board of Selectmen during the Commission's annual summary.

1955 hrs: Recruitment

- John L. updated the Commission regarding Orma Thompson's interest. She is stepping back and withdrawing her application for health reasons.
- Barbara advised that there were promotional videos for the Commission that were aired on Merrimack TV. We will inquire if those videos are available to run again.

2005 hrs: Signs for Historic Sites

- John F. advised that he contacted the US Forest Service to follow up on who manufactures their resin trail signs. He experienced weeks of runaround phone calls and emails. Still no information. Several companies listed online manufacture them.
- Barbara advised that Kyle Fox would be a great resource.

- Chip stated the focus should be on the historic schoolhouse and firehouse sites for the spring. Then the class VI roads can follow later. There are 12 schoolhouse sites, 3 firehouse sites, and the need for 8 signs for the class VI roads.
- John L. advised that a relative positively identified the location of the old Schoolhouse #1 site. It was located on Naticook Road at the intersection of Amherst Road. Naticook Road used to fork at that intersection and the schoolhouse was located in the center island of the fork.

2015 hrs: Gift for Ralph

- Chip addressed the award for Ralph Gerenz for his work with the Commission. It was decided that we should get him a mantle clock with a brass plate. John L. suggested maybe German styling.
- A motion for the purchase of a clock for Ralph up to \$200 passed unanimously.

2020 hrs: Historic Audio Files

- Barbara advised that many seniors in town have significant historical memories which we should attempt to audio record.
- Anita advised that this was already done in 1976 and was recorded on cassette tapes. The tapes have since been transferred to CD and are in storage at the Historical Society.

2025 hrs: KofC Craft Fair

- John L. advised that in the past the Historical Society and Heritage Commission have shared a table at the Knights of Columbus Craft Fair. The Fair is scheduled for November 4th and 5th. Volunteers are needed to staff the tables.
- The Commission needs to review the items in storage at the Historical Society and update the price list. John F. and Chip to arrange this.

2035 hrs: Champion Trees

- Chuck referenced an article regarding Merrimack's Old Passaconaway Tree. The tree was located near the ferry site of Thorntons Ferry and blew down in a hurricane in 1939. The tree was believed to be a white oak. It was 85 feet tall with a circumference of 17 feet. It was named in honor of the great Penacook sachem Passaconaway.
- Chuck has located another champion tree on town land, near the Reeds Ferry landing, which rivals the size of the old tree. He was seeking the Commission's assistance to have this champion tree named and documented as Merrimack's New Passaconaway Tree.

2045 hrs: Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: November 14, 2022