

Approved: April 15, 2024

Merrimack Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes
22-January-2024

Attendance: Heritage Commission – Chip Pollard, John Frechette, Lon Woods

1935 hrs: Meeting called to order by John Frechette

1935 hrs: Review and approval of prior minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes from the November meeting. Motion carried.

1940 hrs: Project Status Review

- **Hannah Jack-Thornton gravesite** - John F advised that he received further correspondence with Ellen Brinker of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence (DSDI). She advised that the bronze plaque they are proposing for Hannah Jack-Thornton's gravesite would be mounted on a granite block, similar to a footstone. She included photographs of a plaque they placed at another cemetery. All present approved of the planned plaque design.
- **Signage** – John F. advised we still need to contact sign manufacturers to obtain estimates of the cost of the proposed signs. No follow-up has been done on this project.
- **Reeds Ferry Landing** - John F advised there is a large oak tree on the property that we are seeking to have designated as a New Passaconaway Tree. No follow-up has been conducted through the winter months.

1950 hrs: Round Table Discussion

- John F advised that he was also included in an email from Barry Lewis from the Sons of the American Revolution to Town Manager Paul Micali. They are also requesting to place bronze markers on graves at Thornton Cemetery. The markers would be on poles, similar to the Veteran markers that are currently used. They are requesting permission to place the markers and hold a gun salute ceremony in the spring. There were no objections from the Heritage Commission.
- Chip advised that the bronze historical marker for Jonathan Cromwell at Anheuser Busch was moved from its original location, maybe as part of a scavenger hunt. It is now located near the stables. Anheuser Busch has now discontinued their tours, and many function activities, and the plaque is now out of sight and out of mind. Chip proposed that the plaque should be returned to its original location on the grounds. He has a contact at Anheuser Busch that can facilitate the relocation. All present were in favor of returning the plaque to its original location.
- John F continued discussion regarding the granite 'Incorporated in 1750' signs at Watson Park and the Town Hall. The use of the second incorporation date is confusing to residents, and the granite signs should be corrected. The first incorporation date of 1746 is on the Town Seal. Lon and Chip agreed that the signs should be corrected. The signs

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were purchased by the Town and are Town property. A vote by the Town Council would be required for approval. John F advised that we should start with inquiries to granite companies for solutions to the engraving. Proposals for the Town Council would follow.

2000 hrs: Commission Housekeeping Items

- Chip relinquished the Commission's key fob to Co-Chair John Frechette. Chip advised that John lives closer and usually arrives for the meetings first. John should possess the key fob to allow earlier access to the meeting room. John F advised he will make the necessary notifications at the Town Hall regarding the keys.

2005 hrs: Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: February 19, 2024