

Merrimack Heritage Commission – Meeting Minutes 16-January-2023

Attendance: Heritage Commission – Chip Pollard, John Frechette, Barbara Healey

Guests – John Lastowka (Historical Society), Chuck Mower (Historical Society), Larry Shower (Historical Society), Rick Price (Historical Society)

1905 hrs: Meeting called to order by John Frechette

1905 hrs: K of C Craft Fair

- Larry advised that the craft fair was well attended. The Historical Society and Heritage Commission had two tables for the sale of items. The Heritage Commission had historic postcards on sale. We made \$4 in sales. The total cost of the table spaces was \$90. The Historical Society provided an invoice for our \$45 table space.
- Barbara reiterated that keeping the two organizations separate is important, especially with financial issues.
- Larry advised that he has already reserved the two table spaces for this year's craft fair. It usually takes place the first weekend in November. The event is more about visibility in the community than it is about sales. It is another opportunity to recruit new members to the Commission.
- We will address additional sale items and a table presentation at a future meeting.

1930 hrs: Champion Tree – New Passaconaway Tree

- John L. advised that Chuck located a possible champion tree on town land near the Reeds Ferry landing. He contacted Mary Tebo Davis from the UNH Cooperative Extension regarding identifying the tree as a Champion Tree. She is the contact for the State to certify it as a Champion Tree or a Passaconaway Tree. Measured at the 4' height, the tree has a circumference of 156". Mary advised that if it is a White Oak it could be a Champion Tree. If it is a Red Oak, the state champion is currently 252" in circumference. A survey of the tree will be scheduled in the spring.

1945 hrs: Review and approval of prior minutes

- John F. advised that we had no quorum in December, so we still need to vote to approve the minutes from the October and December meetings.
- Barbara advised that we still need to review the by-laws to determine if her Selectman Ex-officio Member counts toward establishing a quorum.
- We will postpone voting on the minutes until the review is completed.

1950 hrs: Signs for Historic Sites

- John F. advised that we decided on a design for the Historical Signs at the December meeting. The signs will be of resin composition, green background with white letters, rectangular in shape with a half circle bump out on the top. The bump out will contain

“Merrimack 1746” around the perimeter. The more ornate the sign, the more prone to theft or damage. Now we will need to contact manufacturers for costs.

- John F. advised that we still need to identify the number and location of the signs. Anita was working on the locations. John L. advised that the Historical Society has a photo with the locations of the schoolhouses marked on it.
- Chip advised that we should also consider adding historic passenger train station to the list. Merrimack potentially has 4, Reeds Ferry, Merrimack Center, Thornton Ferry, and Stowell Mill.

2000 hrs: Meeting adjourned due to a fire alarm in the building

Next Meeting: February 13, 2023

DRAFT