

HERITAGE COMMISSION NOTES

December 9, 2019

ATTENDANCE : PRESENT; Anita Creager, Ralph Gerenz, liaison Barbara Heaney
ABSENT: Gigi Jennings, Chip Pollard
NO QUORUM. Informal discussion held on agenda items.

APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER MINUTES: Without a quorum, not able to approve

MEMBERSHIP: Still seeking one full member and 3 alternates

OLD BUSINESS:

Simon's Rock: Barbara has emailed Eileen again. No reply. Will follow up.

Hazen Mill Site: Anita has gotten Google photos and some camera photos from across river but they don't show the mill, which we understand is eight feet tall. Will continue with plans to get drone photos and in-person from adjacent property.

Old King's Highway status: Anita is waiting to hear from Kyle Fox as to who to contact regarding responsibility, regulations and enforcement. Chip has photos of possible design, which Barbara will forward to members.

Original old schoolhouse and fire station signs. Anita has further information on #1 and #5 schools. Will discuss ideas for sign designs and locations. Discussion of "Purple Heart Town" signs used in Amherst for possible similarities in Merrimack. May be made at State Prison.

Website: Topic suggestions include: Stone walls, OKH locations, Old home signs, updates of Village brochures, district schools, locations of fire, police stations and articles submitted to newspapers. Becky is working on design.

Graveyards: Moved to Ongoing Business.

Stone walls: Status unchanged. Barbara is still been working on data and map.

Old Tree list: Ralph reviewed the listing (80 pages) of state and county "Champion Trees", to understand the meanings of the headings and ID #'s. (Points, CBH, VH, ACS). This project is now in the hands of the County Agricultural Commission. There are three trees listed in Merrimack: Common shagbark #496, Eastern Redcedar #433 and American Sycamore #434. Exact locations unknown.

#496: Listed on blog "Henry Thoreau's Shagbark Hickory". More details soon by Mary Tebo Davis at County office. Discussed locations of others in Merrimack.

#433: Eastern White Cedar. No details yet.

#434: American Sycamore: Could be one of Wilson Hill Rd. or Seaverns Bridge Rd.

More later. Anita visited the property and Sycamore tree at 33 Seaverns Bridge Rd, but unable to meet with Jacqueline Patten, the owner.

Ralph will seek access to more details on locations.

Great Northern White Ash: Was on list in past. Located in Ralph Gerenz' yard, but no longer standing.

BAE deed review. Gigi is working on locating past properties involved with use of map showing deeds with emphasis on the Blanchard/Bowers historic properties. Bowers descendent coming to visit Historical Society to provide some information.

ONGOING BUSINESS:

Old Graveyards and Gravestones: Historical Society has been cleaning gravestones at Turkey Hill. Will continue in Spring.

Old Homes Plaques: Will decide in Spring how to proceed: Personal visits or letters to those who have signs, but are not showing on homes.

Sklar property – Subcommittee not yet activated.

Old Blood and Grater Roads: Plan to walk roads in Spring

Scavenger Hunt: Anita has prepared list of past and 12 potential sites for use in the future.

Old Barn Listing: None exists that we know of, although we understand one was suggested.

Next meeting: January 13