

Milford Heritage Commission

Town Hall

1 Union Square

Milford NH 03055

Minutes July 2023

Meeting Date: July 12, 2023, 7:00pm, conducted in the Town Hall Banquet Room

Participating:

| David Palance, Chairman | Paul Dargie, BoS Representative |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Chris Thompson, Vice Chair | Paul Liamos, Secretary |
| Sarah Brown, Treasurer | Katherine Kokko, Voting |
| Dave Alcox, Alternate | Mitch Hemmer, GTM |
| | |

Review of Minutes:

The June minutes were reviewed and voted into record as amended.

New Business

Milford Motel expansion – As requested last month, David P. shared the elevation drawings presented to the Planning Board. The commission was able to discuss the look of the additions from the street and adjacent Ice cream shop.

Old Business

Laurel Schoolhouse project – Katherine reported that the LCHIP application was completed before the deadline, thanks were shared to the commission members for the support of this aggressive effort. The BoS will need to be solicited for support for the commitments to satisfy the grant request prior to this October. We are still seeking a better, high-resolution photo of the street view, Dave A. and Chris agreed to create a better promotion shot. Paul L. inquired as to how we can accommodate a handicap ramp, there was discussion of building a wooden temporary ramp over the granite steps. Katherine submitted the final storm window invoice to the town Finance department for payment as approved at the BoS meeting of 22Aug2022 as recorded in the approved meeting minutes.

Bandstand renovation project – Katherine reported that the Moose Plate grant application was submitted prior to the deadline, Congratulations were shared for another aggressive effort. The Bandstand was funded by this grantor in 2004 for maintenance efforts. We kept our goals of submitting two grant applications (see above) and sent the approved informational letter to all the donors. In short, public funding will continue despite the loss of the warrant article vote. Our

application of \$ 20,000 is intended to reduce the cost further prior to revisiting a warrant article to the voters in the Spring of 2024. This is a continued campaign to educate the public based on the feedback obtained after the vote. David P. will investigate the letter to the Karnis family as this one may have been inadvertently omitted. Sarah asked about whether the town received her employer matching funds. David P. volunteered to investigate with the town Admin and financial departments (see below) in the Financial Report.

Black Heritage Trail project – David P. investigated the owner and purpose of the electrical box at the streetside of Bicentennial Park. This old box is an eyesore as it is peeling paint and the access panels are riveted shut. This box sits very close to the new marker and within a flowered landscape garden. Community Development Office says that they contacted DPW and replied that there is no chance of removing the Eversource box in the park. The next historical marker is slatted for the Nehemiah Hayward house where Harriet Wilson was indentured. David P. is working on the application.

Financial report – The Heritage tracking the following:

| • | Swing Bridge | \$ 7,856.00 |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • | Black Heritage Trail: | (\$ 400.00) |
| • | Pillsbury Bandstand: | \$42,146.72 |
| • | Schoolhouse: | \$ 9,452.51 |
| • | Discretionary Account (no | on-lapsing): <u>\$ 4,165.73</u> |
| | | - Balance total: \$ 63,220.96 |

Several items need to be discussed with the Town Finance Director as we don't have any agreement on how this is being accounted for. All these accounts are under the town but are being tracked by the Heritage Commission to assure the donors that we are honoring their intent. We have no record of receipt for the matching donation from Sarah's employer, AutoDesk of Boston for \$ 100.00. We also don't have confirmation from the town of the availability of the commission's non-lapsing discretionary fund as evident in the commission minutes of 16May2006.

The payment of \$1,800.00 for the Bandstand report needs to be accounted for out of the general fund. This amount was approved under the BoS minutes of 22Aug2022 but it is separate from the accounts of the private donations accumulated in the Bandstand line item.

An invoice of \$1,000.00 was submitted to the town for payment on 17May2023 of this, \$600.00 is received from private donations leaving \$ 400.00 remaining to be paid on this past due invoice dated 15Feb2023. The commission could vote to use our discretionary funds to pay this, however we do not have acknowledgement from the town Finance Department of this account. Since 12Jul2022, the commission members have been asking the town Finance Director for an accounting to adjudicate the commission's finances. David P. will contact Paul Calabria again for a meeting.

Date of Next Meeting: August 9, 2023 @ 7:00pm on zoom and the Banquet Room, Town Hall

Call to Adjourn: 8:13 PM