

Wakefield Heritage Commission
Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2015 - Approved
Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner

Members present: Chair Pam Wiggin, Vice Chair Peter Brown, Nancy Hall, Phil Twombly, Selectmen’s Representative Connie Twombly, Snooky Shea, Larissa Mulkern (staff) and Donna Lee Martin (videotaping the meeting.)

Members not present: Cory Fothergill, Alternates Helen Watkins, Bob McChesney, Valerie Ward and Colleen Nicaastro

The meeting opened at 7 p.m. at the Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Financials: The monthly financial reports were not picked up prior to the meeting – Pam and Larissa were out of town and did not return until after town hall closed. In the future Pam or Larissa will ask another member to pick up the documents if they are unable to get to town hall prior to the meeting. Otherwise, Pam reported total sales of \$487 from Pride Day (sale of books, plaques and mugs.) The commission received an invoice from Kingswood Press for \$355 for note cards, and a receipt for \$206 for fertilizer.

Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes of May 6 as presented was moved by Peter and seconded by Nancy who noted the minutes were very comprehensive and well done. Peter noted that the history of the Wakefield Corner Store that was left in the WHC mailbox at town hall last month was excellent and should be incorporated into the WHC’s programming. Peter agreed to write an article based on the history for the next WHC newsletter. The motion to approve the minutes passed with Connie abstaining.

Correspondence: The insurance policy on the Union Station and Freight House was received and placed on file.

Web site/Facebook: Larissa updated the web site and Facebook with photos and information about the new Newichawannock Bridge & Canal themed mugs and crocks and applied a couple of corrections to the web site content at Pam’s request. Larissa reported a total of 1,353 web site hits in May 2015, a record on the new Go Daddy site. (www.historicwakefieldnh.com).

Donations: Grace Ferguson donated an original Winslow Homer wood engraving from 1870, one of a series of prints that appeared in Appleton’s Journal of Literature, Science and Art. The print appeared in number 57, April 1870 edition. Bill and Nancy Gaver donated the framing. It will be gratefully acknowledged and hung in the Freight House. The print depicts two railroad workers on the caboose of a moving train. Larissa

suggested the donation would make a nice article for the spring/summer WHC 2015 newsletter.

Bill Gaver also donated a covered kiosk that could possibly be used at Heritage Park to announce events, etc.

Freight House/Union Station: Peter introduced a motion seconded by Phil to authorize the expenditure of up to \$100 for flowers and fertilizer for the nine containers outside the Freight House and Union Station. The motion passed unanimously.

Pam said she would email Cory to make plans to retrieve the Union Station sign that needs to be installed prior to opening day (June 27.) As for the school bell that is being stored in Union, Phil hadn't had a chance to talk to the Wakefield Public Works director to request assistance but that he will email him this week.

Blacksmith Shop: Phil met with a Milton-based welding/fabrication company regarding a price quote for welding the iron fence to be installed around the blacksmith shop. The quote was \$400-\$500 per section; the fence has 12 sections and nine of those require welding. The price quote for welding and powder coating was \$4,800, with finials an additional \$210; the price does not include installation and granite posts. Commission members concurred the price was out of reach, and if the fence project was not completed (due to the cost) that donations received thus far, for this particular project, would be returned, added Pam. Snooky said they need to find someone with welding talent, and he knew of someone who would like to volunteer this spring and will check if the gentleman can weld. Larissa suggested she call the Lakes Region Technology Center to see if anyone from the welding department (that is, if they have one) would be interested in the project. Members thanked Phil for his research. In other pending work, Phil had no new quotes to report regarding the shop's roof or chimney repairs. Snooky said Frank Hale's grandfather (the former owner of the Blacksmith Shop) had old pictures from the shop where he is dressed in full regalia and members expressed interest in featuring those on Heritage Day.

Certified Local Government grant: Pam noted the CLG still had funds available due to a low number of applications, but the June 8 application deadline did not provide enough time to get approval from the Board of Selectmen.

Docent Training: A docent training session was planned for June 11 at 2 p.m. at the Heritage Centre of Wakefield Corner. Both Heritage Centers will open June 27 for the season. Phil is available to staff that weekend June 27/28; Nancy can staff on the 28th. Phil can cover Union Station July 11-12; Snooky can cover some Saturdays in August, including the first Saturday. The board agreed not to open during the Independence Day weekend (July 4-5).

Newsletter/WiFi: Topics for the newsletter coming out in June include a story on the Gaver's donated wood block print; Richard Schundler's sponsorship of the Boy Scout Railroading Merit Badge Program; the Newichawannock mugs; an update of the 1909 B&M Railroad model project; a story on the docent program and the Letter from the Chairman. **WiFi:** Peter made a motion seconded by Connie to hire Lance McLean to fix the WiFi access at the Heritage Centre at Wakefield Corner; for some reason the link from Nancy Hall's router next door is not working. Pam will call Lance.

Dollar General: Pam, Peter and Phil attended a Planning Board meeting where representatives from Dollar General submitted a conceptual plan for a store to be located at the current site of the Sanborn house at the corner of Meadow Street (Route 109) and Forest Street in Sanbornville. The initial plan involves demolishing the Sanborn House and replacing it with a Dollar General store. Pam said a meeting was scheduled for June 4 with the Planning Board chair, Code Enforcement Officer Nate Fogg, and the consultant for Dollar General to discuss the project. Pam stated the company has not yet purchased the property.

Peter suggested that since the Heritage Commission was successful in saving and repurposing the Garvin Building with the town, perhaps the commission should pursue similar action with the Sanborn House. He asked if this idea would be something members would consider, whether or not to pursue a purchase/repurposing of the building. Peter said the homeowners could be contacted first to gauge their interest. Commission members expressed support for the idea of saving the site from demolition. Pam agreed to contact the owners. Members also agreed there are other building sites that may be more suitable for a Dollar General.

Branch River Valley Scenic Byway: Pam attended a sparsely attended meeting with members of the Strafford Regional Planning Commission regarding an update to the scenic byways map; To retain the designation, the SRPC now requires that the town have a plan and hold meetings once a year. Pam volunteered to be the Wakefield rep to the by-ways committee with Denise Roy-Palmer of the Moose Mountains Regional Alliance as an alternate.

Other:

Newichawannock plans: Phil asked what the plan was for cleanup at the bridge and canal site; Pam replied the historic site belongs to the state but that the commission would work with the state to create a plan that would include interpretive signage and a walkway on the New Hampshire side. Pam added that a local diver has volunteered to research the 1,000 feet or so of the canal that is under water.

Artist credit: Regarding the new note cards, Peter said artist Judy Brenner was not acknowledged on the note cards; he suggested stickers or cards could be made up to credit the artist with the pen and ink drawing featured on the Newichawannock themed cards. Larissa agreed to contact Judy and look into options.

Fence ordinance: Pam reported she and Peter had discussed expanding the town's zoning ordinance [for the historic district] to include a requirement that would prohibit removing fences in the historic district. Currently, five homes located in the historic district in Wakefield Corner have fences that have been up for many years. Pam said the fences provide a distinctive look to the historic district and that stronger zoning is a way to protect them. Commission members were in favor of drafting an ordinance for the planning board's review.

A motion to adjourn was proposed and seconded at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - Larissa Mulkern