

Exeter Heritage Commission

March 11, 2015

Draft Minutes

Members present: Julie Gilman, Kelly Bergeron, Mary Dupre, and Faith Flythe

Julie Gilman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Wheelwright Room of the Town Office Building.

Faith asked to be put on the agenda for next month and Julie assured her she would be. Julie then stated that there were only a couple of topics. First is the National Registry for the cemetery. The commission got a quote for doing the work which is a little over \$3,000 and the commission has already committed the budget for this year to the Historic Commission's grant because we will be working together on the events that are being planned. There is enough money to take care of that grant so it will have to be next year, unless someone comes up with \$3,000 and wants to donate to the Heritage Commission.

Next, going to the grant expectations for the Heritage Commission is really just to help out with coordinating events, as far as who is going to open the door, welcome people, etc. Our first thing is going to be March 31st at the Historical Society and it is about what color paint houses were and no name has been decided yet. It is either going to be "color my house" or "great white height". It is going to be led by a company that does preservation construction and they have specialized in paint colors and can make recommendations for age appropriate. This company is going to put on a presentation, but no date yet and that is why we are protecting March 31<sup>st</sup>. Julie stated that another event that is going to happen is CAMP which is put on by the National Association of Preservation Commissions. The commission is going to get a membership to this. Julie stated that this is a great resource of how to spread the word and what we can do as a commission. The people from there are coming here to do this exercise of how to run a meeting, what your expectations are when someone comes to you and what work has to be done with demolition reviews. Also, what ideas we have to say this is ours. It is an association with the Historic District Commission so we will be joining them for this one day, all day and it is April 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. Mary asked if this was going to be open to the public and Julie stated that it is only for the commissions and the building inspector. Julie then stated that this should be a good thing for the two commissions to be together and talk about how they can work together. Julie is hoping to get the Planning Board Chairman to come.

Julie stated that one of the problems we have had in recent days, Franklin Street being an example, pottery barn or shed on Front Street being an example, that we are the last ones to know that something is going on. Looking at the Zoning Ordinance, it says because we could not figure out a way to trigger the demolition review, we decided that when some pulls a permit for demolition, that would be the place for the building inspector to tell the applicant that he/she needs to see us. Looking at the Zoning Ordinance, it says anytime something comes to the Planning Department that is proposed to have something demolished, it has to come to us first. Julie is planning to attend a Planning Board meeting to talk about this.

Julie stated that the fellow from the Academy was going to come tonight to talk about the pottery shed on Front Street that they are going to demolish to make way for the addition on the music building.

Julie stated that it is a beautiful little building. Jerry Hamel actually went to the academy to talk to them about moving it. Maybe to the parkway, but it should go somewhere. Faith stated that she did not quite know what the purpose was of what we were doing. Maybe someone would demolish something else. It would be like a learning experience. Julie stated that the Academy had said that the little building had been moved from another lot on Front Street. Julie stated that she could see that from an aerial map and she stated this in the letter for the demolition review. Julie stated that it does not belong with either of the buildings it sits with. Kelly stated that it is sort of stuck there and Julie agreed. Julie stated they asked about moving the building and the Academy said it would be too much and it is too tall. Julie then stated that the interior looks pretty original. Kelly stated that they are using it for a crash pad. When they have a music instructor who comes in, they stay there because it is next to the music building. This is basically all they use this building for. It has one room upstairs and one downstairs. History is that this building was used for pottery classes. Julie stated that it is probably going to come down. Kelly stated that when they did the site walk, they talked about the building coming down. Jerry had approached them about moving it and the expense of moving it was beyond what it was worth. At that point, it is discussed why spend that much money to move something that is not worth that amount of money. Kelly thinks the Academy would have just given it to him if he had just moved it, but it costs a lot to move it. Julie stated that the fellow from the Academy was going to come here and talk to us about other options, if we had any ideas. He was also going to look into the Academy archives. Kelly asked if Julie had heard back from him about this and she had not.

Julie stated that was all she had to talk about. Faith asked if she could speak. She loved the Wreaths Across America. Julie asked if she saw the talk she did no TV and Faith stated she did not. Julie stated that on Channel 98 there is a new show called Next Stop Exeter. It is produced by Frank Ferraro and he asked Julie to come and talk about the cemetery because he was at the recent Wreaths Across America and to learn about it. Julie spoke for about ten minutes and it is on You Tube. Faith stated that she is pretty sure that April will repeat the ceremony and she loved the photo. It was in the Newsletter. She then went on to say that she is not sure if she will be able to stay on as a member of the commission due to some health issues. Faith then stated that in passing, she would be willing to be a Trustee for the cemetery. Julie stated that there are three Trustees. Faith said that two other people had volunteered to be a Trustee, but they only wanted to do Winter Street Cemetery. Julie stated that the three Trustees are responsible for all the cemeteries. Julie stated that the Selectmen are the Trustees of the cemeteries.

Faith stated that she does not give up easily and she is still going to concentrate on Winter Street. In late December, early January, two UNH students came by her house and spend two hours getting information about two African American soldiers. She subscribes to Ancestry so she printed off a thick packet of material for them. Julie stated this would be good for the commission to have. Faith stated that the Independent Museum is going to have a special exhibit on them in April. Faith then asked if the commission could get a free State of NH flag from somewhere. Julie asked if it would be for the cemetery and Faith said it would be. Julie stated absolutely. Faith stated that they have a new American flag and Barbara said the Girl Scouts coming this Spring or Summer, will buy a Bunker Hill flag to replace the one that is really faded. Faith thought we could add a State of NH flag. Faith stated that the DAR over a year ago was going to donate probably a granite memorial for the entrance to the cemetery with the names of all the soldiers. The DAR in Washington has a 50/50 deal, we figured it would run around \$3,000 to \$4,000 and we could raise half here and they would give the other half. However, they will not do this for government owned property. Faith stated that she spend a lot of time researching this and is very disappointed. She wants to know if the commission can get one of the historical road side signs. Julie stated there are two options. One, we can get a State one or we can

wait to get the cemetery recognized nationally and get the federal one. It looks the same but has a different seal on it. Faith asked which one would be better and Julie stated that she thought it would be the national one. The wording on it would be limited to the size and they would not be able to do a list of all the soldiers, but could figure something else out for that. Maybe find a grant somewhere else or do some fundraising. Faith suggested that perhaps this spring, the commission could look to replace or repair the cast iron gates. Julie stated that one of the reasons she did the talk on Next Stop Exeter, was to solicit volunteers for the Heritage Commission and to help with the clean ups every spring and Fall. Faith asked if Jerry knew anyone who specialized in cast iron gates. Julie stated she would ask him. She also stated that our Highway Superintendent might also know because he works with a lot of landscapers. Mary asked if there was a gate there now that is broken and Faith stated there is a gate on Front Street and it cannot be latched. This is why when you drive by, it is always open. Faith thinks the latch on the post is broken. These are very small things and every little thing that we do, shows that somebody cares about it. Julie stated that these are the things the Trustees would be looking at to take care of and if we had Trustees, we could have a budget to do those kinds of things. Faith stated that she has no idea how much these things would cost.

Faith also mentioned that there is still the vandalized tombstone and she will call Judy. She knows the lady that volunteered to come in and clean it. She does want written approval for her to do that. Julie stated that the commission would want that so that it is done the proper way. Faith stated that the DAR puts flags in the cemetery on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Julie stated that it sounds good. Julie stated that Faith should also talk to the DAR about doing something with the independence Festival on July 18<sup>th</sup>. Faith stated that they had a booth. She then asked if there was a brochure for the Winter Street Cemetery because she wonders if a lot of publicity would encourage some sixteen year olds to come over and knock over some more stones. Not sure if the brochures encourages more vandalism. Julie stated that Ginny and George did all the research when they cleaned it up and they mapped out where the stones were and they have a list of who was there. Not sure if they have any more information, and if they did, it probably went to the Historical Society. Faith stated that Ginny and George volunteered and they said aside from getting that tombstone cleaned up, they would like to go around with their maps and put some of the stones back. Faith then mentioned perhaps removing a few trees out of the cemetery. Julie stated that she never spoke with Parks and Recreations about this. They are reluctant tree removers themselves and would hire out to do it. This is probably a good time of year to call tree companies and see if they do pro bono work. Faith stated that one of the problems is that you cannot bring in the very big equipment because it flattens all those revolutionaries. Faith then stated that she was driving by one day and thought that maybe they could lean over the stone wall and take down a few trees that are right there. Julie stated they could do it using cherry pickers. Julie also stated that they will also climb the trees to cut them down.

Julie thanked Faith for the list of items she spoke about. Faith mentioned that there were only two and a half places that need to be fixed on the wall. Julie stated that she has all this information in the minutes so there can be a check list as to what gets done.

Faith stated that years ago she went over when the previous Independence Museum was sponsoring the reenactors to give talks at the cemetery. She stated she enjoyed it and it was on Halloween. Julie stated that they are doing that annually now because it got so much interest.

Julie stated that she just got confirmation that the March 31<sup>st</sup> is going to be the paint lecture and we are advertising it as being hosted by the Heritage Commission because people still think that the Historical District Commission dictates what color your house is. We do not want the HDC to be involved in the name of it at all. It will be sponsored by the Heritage Commission.

Faith stated that maybe in the summer time we could do a reenactor fundraiser. Mary stated that it would take a lot of planning. Faith stated one little step at a time. Julie stated that the museum has that all figured out now. How many people they need and what the research is and she would say as sitting on the Board of Governors, they want to reach out and be more connected in the community with other bodies, not just being the isolated island that they are. Julie will ask them if they will lend their expertise to us for doing something like that in the summer instead of at Halloween. There could be other opportunities that will be produced by the museum. Faith stated that Carol Welch volunteered there and is going to be in the next regent for the DAR. Julie asked Faith to send her a message the museum showing us or giving us their information on how to put on a cemetery program.

For next month, Julie would like the commission to read the book she gave out called What Style Is It. She stated that it is a short book and they will talk about it at next month's meeting.

Julie stated that March 31<sup>st</sup> Historical Society, What Color Is My House.

With no further business, Julie made a motion to adjourn. Kelly seconded. All were in favor and meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Herrick  
Recording Secretary