



Town of Deering, NH
Deering Heritage Committee Meeting
Monday, Sept., 12, 2005
Town Hall
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM

Attendance: Dan Donovan, Michelle Johnson, Beverly Yeaple, Don Johnson

Minutes of the meeting held Wednesday, August 24, at 9:00 AM were reviewed by the members present with agreement that they were representative of the discussion that took place.

Old Business: Discussion turned to the matter of *recruiting members* for the commission. As decided at the last meeting, Don Johnson wrote an article about the start and purpose of the commission and submitted it to the local papers. Michelle Johnson had put together an advertisement for members and submitted it to the papers as well. Both the article and the ad had been passed around a recent Town event and posted in the Town Hall. No interest has occurred.

Of the remaining tasks members were assigned at the last meeting:

Bev Yeaple will be contacting the person from the Preservation Alliance to get the proper paperwork required for an historical inventory.

Michelle Johnson will be creating the web page for the Heritage Commission on the Town's website.

Members went on to discuss the *mission statement* for the commission. Changes proposed by Don Johnson to the sample presented at the last meeting were accepted by those present. Michelle Johnson volunteered to make them and post the finished statement on the web page when finished.

Members next discussed the *Rules and Procedures* sample that was handed out at the last meeting and also reviewed the Planning Board's Rules and Procedures as another example. It was agreed to designate the 2nd Monday morning of the month as a workshop meeting and that the regular meeting would be held that same night at 7pm.

It was agreed finally that as far as terms are concerned, those in common with the Town ordinance should reflect the same definitions. Terms unique to the Heritage Commission: historic property or historic resource, historic district, preservation, and preservation restriction, shall be understood as presented in the sample used from the Town of Amherst.

New Business: Michelle Johnson introduced the assessment provided by Christine Hadsel regarding the cleaning and restoration cost of *the Town's theater backdrop*. Ms. Hadsel, from Vermont, has played a pivotal role in the recovery and restoration of several backdrops all over Vermont. She was a guest speaker recently at a function sponsored by the Hillsboro Historical Society held at the Deering Town Hall. The assessment itself cost \$50 and the total estimate amounted to \$2980. The \$50 will be paid for out of the money appropriated at Town meeting.

Committee members reviewed the assessment and contract. Members discussed the potential of raising the money for the restoration through various fund-raising events or by pursuing grants as a possibility. Although members present agreed that this is a worthwhile project, no definite decision to go forward with this project at this time was made.

Those present went on to discuss with enthusiasm, *several ideas for projects* the committee could start that might generate more interest from various community members. The list included the restoration and cleaning of the theater backdrop, preserving barns, preserving or restoring the snow roller over by the airport, organizing and archiving old Town records, hosting and organizing a heritage day, surveying and inventorying the old houses and other historically important areas in Town.

Considering that one of the main purposes of the commission is to start *inventorying historical resources* and with thought that maybe it would be a project individuals or families could relate to and personalize, the members present decided to start with contacting individuals to ask if they would like to participate in this process. Members discussed contact through phone or by mailings to likely participants. Once the inventory sheets are at hand the commission will move forward and begin this project. Don volunteered start calling some people to create some interest.

Finally, Bev Yeaple made mention that the commission should have *some place to file* acquired paperwork. Michelle Johnson agreed to look into the appropriate space and an extra file cabinet for such a purpose.

Both Don Johnson and Bev Yeaple borrowed various handouts Michelle Johnson brought in to share from an earlier conference attended on Heritage Commissions.

The Commission adjourned at 10:15.

Next meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Monday of October, 9am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Johnson