Members present: Kathie Northrup, John Giotas, Jim Sullivan (council rep). Meeting called to order at 1 p.m. at the library.

Approve minutes:
1/30/20, Jim moved acceptance, John seconded, unanimously approved.
2/19/20 public hearing minutes, John moved acceptance, Jim seconded, unanimously approved.
2/27/20 minutes, John moved acceptance, Jim seconded, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT:
None

COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS:
1. Membership in NH Preservation Alliance has expired. Jim moved to rejoin at $50 per year, John seconded, unanimously approved.
2. Our nominee for Youth Achiever--Mackenzie Conner--was selected by the council subcommittee on 2/12/20. She will be recognized at council’s 5/27 meeting. We discussed a couple token gifts. John plans to attend.

NEW BUSINESS:

Heritage Day/Month
Discussed changing “day” to “month” to more easily accommodate participation; it has gotten too complicated to coordinate one day. Kathie will do council proclamation.

Kathie sent notice to past participants, including Conservation Commission; she offered to do initial press if plans are received in time. Otherwise each group will do their own.

HC decided to do an NHH speaker, library co-sponsoring. We chose History of Agriculture as Told by Barns. Room available at the library on Thursday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.; OK with John C. Porter, speaker.

Kathie thought we could supplement program to bring it back to Hooksett. We could display our binders containing the barn inventory we did several years ago, post photos of some nice barns, give stats on how many we’ve lost, reminder about the existing tax incentive, and put out our barn posters for sale. Also, for the 2015-16 Town Report, we submitted “Remembering Hooksett’s Agricultural Heritage” as the theme which included photos and quotes from oral historians, etc. We could make copies of those 3 pages as a handout. Also the 2004-5 report featuring barns.
Jim moved to expend $44 for mileage; John seconded. Unanimously approved. NH Humanities provides the $200 speaker fee. Kathie applied for the grant; received notice 2/25/20 that our grant had been approved.

Demo Petition, 191 West River Road, formerly Duford, Barn and Garage

Extensive discussion was had regarding this demo petition.

The assessing record cites the construction date of the house as 1860; there is no date for the barn.

Members made a site visit on 3/3/20.

Owner has plans to reuse some beams, large track doors, tin roof for ceiling of entry, clapboard siding, cupola.

There will also be a large pavilion (30’ x 56’). The rebuilt barn will be 36’ x 96’. Both to be used as event sites.

In the barn there are lots of 2x4 repairs/patches to ceiling joists. Roof questionable.

Last year owner had started renovation—shored up foundation on street side, replaced wall sheathing with new plywood, new clapboard. Engineer or architect told him shoring up he did would not pass code. Lifting building to replace foundation would be very expensive. Architect designed new barn using many elements of the existing one.

Interesting feature—east side of barn is angled to work around huge ledge area.

Seems very tuned in to preserving the character of the site. Will design barn to be sympathetic to site and to fit with the house.

Addition on the front end will go as will garage to the south.

Back of the barn addition is 2 stories. Could drive in farm machinery, etc.

Underground floor.

Inside had been gutted. No evidence of farm activity left.

After considerable discussion, commission regretfully found the barn to be not significant. Demo may proceed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Demo Petition

53 Martin’s Ferry Road (former Underhill home)

Public hearing was held 2/19/20. Posted and published by Admin.

About 20 people attended the meeting along with a rep from SNHU. Former residents/owners Cannata/Vogel and D. Mayberger were there. Eight people offered public comment. Kathie thanked SNHU for their cooperation.

At the conclusion of the public hearing, the Heritage Commission offered closing comments.
Kathie - I find the property does have architectural and historical significance. My suggested alternative would be repurposing by SNHU. If that is not possible, I would favor the sale of the property. John echoed those comments.

John made the following motion: I move that the Commission declare the property at 53 Martin’s Ferry Road to be significant and its loss potentially detrimental to the town, and, pursuant to the demo review regulation, that the Commission meet with the applicant at their convenience to discuss the alternatives proffered. Our recommendation would be that if the university does not wish to retain the building for reuse that it sell the property. Kathie seconded the motion. The motion was voted unanimously in favor.

SNHU has requested additional time to consider alternatives so the meeting will be held at their convenience.

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Head School

On 2/18/20 Kathie emailed the marms re Hooksett scholars/plans for classes this spring; no response yet.

On 3/4/20, an email request from 4th grade coordinator was received saying the trips were back on and asking about scheduling.

Kathie had asked the marms to reconsider denial of mixed-age program; there was only one response and it was negative. She will follow up.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Kathleen Northrup, Chair
March 5, 2020

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Next meeting to be set as needed

Please see subsequent meeting minutes for any amendments to these minutes.