Members present: Kathie Northrup, John Giotas, Jim Sullivan (council rep). Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. at 1277 Hooksett Road.

Minutes of 7/16/20 Jim moved to adopt, John seconded, unanimously approved. Minutes of 8/5/20 John moved to adopt, Jim seconded, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT:
None

COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Approve 7/1/19-6/30/20 annual report. Members approved submission.

Review Assignments:
1. Kathie - another estimate for Vet Park maintenance//no progress
2. All - review demo reg

NEW BUSINESS:

Demo Permit Application Review - 1277 Hooksett Road

The smoke shop building at the south end of the property will also be demolished, but that application is not under our review as the building is too new per the Code Enforcement Officer.

History: Kathie contacted the daughter (Cheryl Rivard Baker) of the original owner. She provided some historical info on the original establishment. This building is the last remaining part of the El Rivardo Motel, built in 1954 by Armand and Shirley Rivard. They operated it until 1969.

There were 14 units total--7 on the north end and 7 on the south with a small driveway between them for deliveries. The 7 units on the north have previously been demolished.

There was a 2-hole putting green directly next to the road in front of the south motel unit (the building we're reviewing). The family lived in a home attached to the motel office. It was a unique home with a big flagstone fireplace and a bricked kitchen. The office was in the north building; the family home was attached to the rear of that building. You went through the motel office to get to the family home.

Her parents sold the property in 1969/70. The new owner continued to operate it as a motel for some time. The Singer family (Merchants Motors) then bought the property in the 1970s.
Tenants: The last tenant was New Canton restaurant which operated from for many years, closing in early 2016.

This is one of the last remaining examples of the hotel/motel/cabins boom with the advent of automobile travel. (Firebird and Kozy 7 still operate as originally built.) Hooksett Historical Sketches by Charles Hardy says regarding the hospitality businesses in Hooksett when listing 15 “motels and auto courts”: “. . . all are located within a three and one-half mile radius on highway route #3, also known as the Daniel Webster Highway. . . . For many years this [Route 3] was regarded as one of the principal arteries leading into the White Mountain area, but the construction of a modern four-lane highway called the Everett Turnpike in 1957 and access highways to same constructed since then, had the effect of cutting down tourist travel with a resulting loss of patronage to the motels and restaurants in Hooksett.”

The commission reviewed the Criteria for Finding “Significance.” Of the six listed criteria, only one could be applied to this site—“. . . associated with . . . the broad . . . cultural . . ., economic or social history of Hooksett or the region” as it relates to the period of travel and tourism in Hooksett.

The site is not now identifiable as part of motel complex. It was last operated as such in the 1970s.

After discussion and review, the Commission finds that the building is not “significant” under our criteria. The chair will sign off on the application and notify the Code Enforcement Officer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Head School

October will be the 10th anniversary of the rehab of the school. It was dedicated on Saturday, October 2, 2010. Due to the ongoing restrictions of Covid-19, we will forgo any in-person event. Kathie will publicize the history and programs on our Facebook page instead.

Moose Plate Grant

Sent email 8/23 following up on conservation of pre-1842 map.
Assignments:

1. Kathie - another estimate for Vet Park maintenance
2. Kathie, publicize Head School anniversary
3. All - review demo reg

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Kathleen Northrup, Chair
September 3, 2020

Next meeting to be set as needed

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