Members present: Kathie Northrup, John Giotas, Jim Sullivan (council rep). Meeting called to order at 11 a.m. at the library. Also present: Monther Mardini and Scott Greeb from SNHU, and Dale White and Jeff Deardorff from Leighton A. White, Inc., a demo firm.

Minutes of 9/26/19 - Jim moved to approve; John seconded. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC INPUT:

With agreement of all present, public input deferred until consideration of demo petition.

COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE AND MISCELLANEOUS:

2. Kathie reported on receipts 7/1/19-1/9/20 from library and admin.

Review Assignments:

1. John, combo locks for Head’s. Done. Ready for install.
2. Kathie, Youth Achiever nomination///done, filed December 17, 2019
3. Kathie, approved demo application to CEO///done, 8 Martin’s Ferry
4. All, review demo regulation

NEW BUSINESS:

Demo Petition, 53 Martin’s Ferry Road

Discussion regarding the application for demo permit by SNHU and its demo contractor for demolition of the home at 53 Martin’s Ferry Road. They propose to retain the garage. Apparently there is an issue with that being non-conforming, but that doesn’t influence today’s discussion. Further action is necessary by SNHU.

The application was filed on January 21, 2020, and received by the Heritage Commission that same day. Under Development Reg 17, the demolition regulation, the Heritage Commission has 5 days from the filing to meet and make a determination “whether the building might be of historical or architectural significance.

The meeting was set for January 27, but because of a scheduling conflict, SNHU consented to an extension of deadlines in the reg; the meeting was rescheduled for today.

At the meeting today Monther Mardini, Scott Greeb from SNHU, and Dale White and Jeff Deardorff of a demo company Leighton A. White, Inc. We’ll welcome any input from them after our discussion.
Kathie outlined her concerns and observations including the long period of vacancy; the loss of several other old homes in the area in the last several years dated to 1900, 1920, 1840, and 1833; and the historical significance of the Martin’s Ferry settlement. We have appreciated the diversity of architectural styles on the campus. This is an interesting example of NE/Hooksett architecture. Its retention would help to preserve community character. The historical connection is to Fred C. Underhill, who lived here from 1925-1950. He was the first Hooksett Citizen of the Year in 1959 and the donor of the land for Underhill School.

Jim emphasized the historical connection to Mr. Underhill, the fact that it is the last of its type and age in the neighborhood, and the diversity of the campus architecture.

John commented on his tour of the interior of the building. There are a few items that need attention, but building overall is in good condition. Heat and electricity have been maintained.

John made the following motion: I move that the commission declare the property at 53 Martin’s Ferry Road to be potentially historically or architecturally significant and set a public hearing to hear all public testimony regarding the demolition of the building.

Jim seconded; unanimously adopted.

Discussed the next steps with the applicant. They left the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

10/7/19 - Moose Plate Grant award letter for pre-1842 map. They amended the amounts—$3200 (from $3486—deducted framing, included fiche). Kathie suggested we proceed with the framing—$800. Jim made a motion to expend up to $800 from our funds to mat and frame of the print so it can be accessible to the public. John seconded; unanimously adopted.

The grant was accepted by council on 11/20/19.

Kathie brought the map over to Bellows Falls on 11/14/19. Conservator will hold pending receipt of funds, etc. She won’t be doing the conservation until spring.

NH History Week
10/29/19, Chinooks, NH Dog program. 39 people. 2 Chinooks, 1 Husky. Very well received; very interesting program.

Merchandise

In October there was an overrun on our afghan order; the company sent an extra 25. When asked, they offered a $6 per afghan discount. Decided to keep the overrun. In October Kathie asked if they’d accept $10 each plus shipping; they did. Jim moved to expend $250 ($10 x 25) on extra afghans, John seconded. Confirming email vote. We saved $212.50.
Head School

In the fall, the 4th grade liaison advised that they would be allowed only one field trip that used buses, and the field trip for 4th grade has to be the State House. She asked about alternatives. Kathie has not been made aware of the resolution so she will get details from the marms and an update before we take any action.

At a previous meeting Kathie was to ask the marms for reconsideration of denying a mixed-age program. No progress.

Lilac Bridge

In December the park project/memorial was brought forward. Historical Society and John from HC will participate in a committee. An RFP has already been issued. A total inventory of the pieces available hadn’t been done.

Assignments

1. Underhill demo–All, research, prepare. Kathie, advertise
2. Kathie, follow up w/marms re Hooksett scholars.
3. Kathie, ask marms to reconsider denial of mixed-age program
4. All, review demo regulation

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Kathleen Northrup, Chair
February 21, 2020

Next meeting to be set as needed

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