

Hollis Heritage Commission

Town of Hollis, Hollis, NH 03049

Date: 24 November, 2020

Members Present: Wendy Trimble, Susan Benz, Karla Vogel, Jan Larmouth, Doug Nye, David Sullivan, Michael Bates, Aurelia Perry

Members Absent: Honi Glover

Meeting: Called to order: 7:00pm. Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes: October, 2020

Minutes taken by Wendy. Aurelia moved to approve the Minutes; Doug 2nd.

Finance: Jan reports that we have \$12,385.04 in the Cooper Shop account, \$20,000.00 in the Money Market account (interest from this account is added to the Cooper Shop account), and \$2,609.00 in the General Heritage Commission account, for a cash-on-hand total of \$34,994.04. Interest that accrued in October was \$4.55. Activity in the past month has included a membership check to Freedom's Way for \$50.00. The total we have received this year to date from donations and calendar sales is \$2,070.00. In order to break even, this year, we would need an additional \$1485.00. We are expecting a check from Lull Farm in the amount of \$1,600.00.

Business: Following the sale of the final calendars, we will send thank-you notes and a free calendar to our main vendors.

The annual Heritage Commission site walk was completed in two separate groups, due to COVID-19 concerns. Next year we will need to replace the ribbon markers as they are fading, falling off, or choking the trees. Wendy also reported that the granite bench on the trail has had its seat removed, and will need to be repaired. Doug will take a look and see what needs to be done. The trail itself is partially impeded by some fallen trees on the right-hand side of the river in particular, especially before the bridge: we might take a chain-saw next time, or chain-saw the trail in the meantime.

There will be a Town Zoom meeting regarding the Farley Building on November 30. HHC members expressed concern that it could end up being a free-for-all, as little structure has been proposed for the meeting. Karla pointed out that the Building is indeed in the Historic District. Dave pointed out that the Town already did a large amount of work to stabilize the building, with a new roof, shutters, and mold abatement. One of the main reasons the meeting has been called at this point is that there has been some vandalism lately. Dave suggested that on the windows that have been boarded up, boards painted to look like windows be placed behind window dividers temporarily, for a maintained appearance. Wendy brought up that we as the Heritage Commission could consider taking on the Farley Building as a next project. Karla pointed out that there are a large number of Farley Building school alumni who enjoy sharing their memories of time in the Building, and that their energy and support could potentially be tapped for help in preservation. Wendy brought up that consideration of what the Building would be used for will be necessary in order to determine the ultimate cost of preservation; use as a museum, for instance, would require less work than use as office space. If the Heritage Commission

is in favor of preserving the Building, as we were when we got it on the Seven to Save list and got the Building “mothballed” for future potential work, Dave mentioned that the HHC should consider sending a letter to the Selectmen regarding the fact of our support. Karla will draft a letter, with information on the Building’s history from Dave. For the holidays in the past, with the approval of the Selectmen, Dave has put candles in the windows of the Farley Building, added a wreath to the front door, and put a spotlight on the front of the Building to highlight its worth and beauty as a central historical structure in Town. We will try to get approval to do that again this year. Michael will also reach out to the Historic District Commission to see if they can also speak on behalf of the Farley Building at the November 30th meeting.

Banners for the Heritage Commission: Karla reports that the logo, by Dave, has been scanned at an extremely high resolution for use.

Calendars: Karla mentioned that the coming Thanksgiving weekend will be a big one for shopping at the local farmstands which have been selling our calendars.

Lawrence Barn commemorative bench: Wendy suggested that we have a member present when they install the bench to ensure that it’s placed correctly; Michael and Doug volunteered to be present.

Karla asked if we would be putting a wreath on the Gambrel Barn this year; the answer was ‘Yes’, so Karla will acquire the wreath, drop it at Jan’s for the addition of a bow, and Jan will then take the wreath to the Barn to be placed by Doug.

The issue of the newly-installed storyboards being affected by moisture was broached. The boards on the Gambrel Barn are particularly wet, permanently, and don’t look good. It was suggested that the glass be raised and rubber washers be installed to space the glass. Wendy suggested that if the washers don’t work, the signs could be moved inside the building.

Wendy brought up that some individuals have been somewhat monopolizing our HHC buildings for their own business gain, and asked that we think about what we might do if it becomes an issue. We could potentially have the buildings’ time scheduled, inside and outside, at least on weekends, as the Lawrence Barn is scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 8:03pm.

Next Meeting to be held on Tuesday, December 22nd, 7pm by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Aurelia Perry.