

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Feb. 24, 2023, 7 p.m., J.A. Tarbell Library

MEMBERS PRESENT: Stephanie Roper, Robert Howe, Louis Rota, Jessie Salisbury, Selectman Mark Chamberlain

SHOW AND TELL:

Jessie had an 1894 Town Report, given to the Historical Society by Walter Holland; several undated pictures taken in So. Lyndeborough by Lucy Schmidt; and a copy of “100 Years of Lyndeborough Railroads,” created by the Commission about 20 years ago.

The minutes of Jan. 27 were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Bob. The Treasurer’s report shows a balance on Jan. 30 of \$3,760.70. There were no intent-to-cut forms received.

DISPLAY CASES

Jessie had a picture of the three glass display cases recently given to the Historical Society. They are about eight feet long, four feet high, and are stored in the Town (Center) Hall for the time being.

STONE ARCH BRIDGES

It was decided that a “cheat sheet” was needed for whomever argues at Town Meeting for the spending of \$6,000 for an architectural engineering study to evaluate the bridges. The Budget Committee, having a tie vote of 4-4, did not approve the expenditure. The argument should include:

The Commission is charged by state statute with “preserving and protecting historical structures.”

Such preservation is included in the Master Plan

There are few such structures left (the Town Pound and a few mill foundations). Most of the town’s cultural and industrial past has vanished – the glass factory, the Clark pottery, the Pinnacle House, a dozen or more mills.

The bridges, built in 1873 by Alvaro Buttrick, are unique in that there are two of them not connected. They represent a style of architecture no longer used.

Preservation of the past is important to maintain the character of the town.

The arches belong to the town.

The full study and report are needed to apply for grants if any repair work is required.

If the arches fall, they will be gone forever.

When the arches were by-passed by the new Old Temple Road bridge in 2003, a picnic area was proposed but never completed. The Highway Department recently cleared out the old road making access easy.

It was decided to have a historic marker placed at the site and the area made into a park.

Stephanie will prepare a handout to be available on voting day March 14. Leo has said he would take new pictures.

DISPLAY CASES AT CITIZENS' HALL

Jessie said she is working on new displays to be ready for voting day which will include the bridges, the Town Pound, and Pinnacle Grange

WORK ON CENTER HALL FLOOR

Jessie had a picture of the work in progress, being done by the Highway Department. Mark said the floor supports have been replaced and plywood put down. The flooring will be replaced. He had a selection of pictures on his phone showing the work.

The work was done while the hall was being warmed and prepped for the Hunter Mills Fundraiser.

A plan for the entire building is being prepared. Mark said, "There is a lot of work to be done," which will be expensive. Any visible work done has to be in keeping with the history of the building.

HUNTER MILLS FUNDRAISER

The event was well attended; second-hand reports say over \$2,000 was raised. Mills is a member of the Highway Department crew.

TOWN HISTORY

Stephanie said she has consulted with a college colleague and hopes to have answers to the technical publishing problems soon.

CHURCH PURCHASE

Stephanie reported a balance in the Historical Society's purchase fund of \$64,152. Since over \$15,000 had been paid for the purchase-and-sales agreement, the amount is over half of the purchase price and an LCHIP grant can be looked into. Stephanie will take the required steps and look at other available grants.

GIS PROJECT

Mark said he hasn't had a chance to speak with the right person at NRPC.

OTHER BUSINESS

Jessie said, in changing the upstairs displays at Citizens' Hall, she thought the cobalt blue glass rolling pin made at the Glass Factory should return to the downstairs case where more people can see it. It had been put upstairs for safe keeping. Dawn Griska said she had no objection. Leo said the rolling pin belongs to him and he would like it more visible.

The Fourth Grade History Tour is set for June 8. Jessie and Stephanie will work on that.

The next meeting was set for Friday, March 31, 2023, at the library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Secretary