

## Historic District Commission meeting minutes March 23, 2022

In attendance: Chair Rebecca Schwarz, Selectmen's representative Howard Brown, Mary Katherine McNamara, Karolyn Campbell, Doug Irvine, Secretary JoAnn Kitchel

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

Only item on the agenda: Possible merger of the Historic District Commission and the Heritage Commission. This idea was brought to Rebecca by the Selectboard. This is an idea to streamline commissions. Both are land use commissions, both reporting to the Selectboard, and deferring to the Planning and Zoning Boards. We need a Heritage Commission to accept grants and funding. Possibly the Heritage Commission could fall under the Planning Board. The Heritage has a full panel, with the Selectboard position not being filled as yet, due to the change in Selectmen. There was much discussion about the merits of joining both commissions. Everyone spoke on the matter at length, and it was unanimous consensus that we would not like to join the two groups. Doug has brought up that this question since the beginning of the formation of the Heritage Commission. Many of our board members would have to step down, as their commission is already full. We feel that the two groups have very different goals. Many people on our board live in the village, and we believe that this an important aspect of our group. We appreciate the scope and charge of our group, and don't really want to add other time commitments. Our roster is full at this time. Down the road, if the groups have trouble keeping our boards full, perhaps we can reconsider the idea of merging the groups. If we ever did decide to do this it would have to be a warrant article to merge the groups and abolish one of them. Any change would happen next year. We could consider adding more seats on both commissions. We all were in agreement that the commissions are different enough to be kept separate. Rebecca and Howard will look into what would be necessary to merge the groups, in case it needs to be addressed in the future.

Howard introduced an idea that he is looking into is the town's transparency problem. He is suggesting getting the technology to broadcast all of the town's meetings. Broadband is very slow in the Town Hall. The ability to Zoom would really help with the transparency problem. Howard suggested looking at the Deliberative Session at the MVVS to see what a great job they are doing there.

JoAnn told the group that the Hooper property has sold to a young couple. They plan to move into the home in the fall. The plan is to completely restore the home and property. They understand how the process works about coming to the HDC with any plans.

Time was permitted for members to discuss items not on the agenda, and meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Kitchel