

MONT VERNON HERITAGE COMMISSION
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2024

In attendance: Becci Schwarz - Chair, Brian Billow - Vice-Chair, Mike Fimbel - Selectmen Rep, Jay Goodell - Planning Board Rep, Linda Harrop - Secretary, Anna Szok - Alternate, im Berry - Alternate, Zoe Fimbel – Alternate. **Absent:** Sarah Beth Ross - Alternate
Community Members: Amanda Young, Anne Prevett

AGENDA:

Times are approximate and subject to change without notice.

7:00pm: Call to Order

7:02pm: Window Project Update: All downstairs windows except for one bath and kitchen storage room have been restored (9 windows 1st floor). The last project is to remove the large windows upstairs. Those windows may need to be boarded up in the meantime. Project should be completed by summer.

7:05pm: National Register Update: wording had to be changed on the nomination form due to a question about whether a story was added, the building was raised and finished in two floors. Should be considered by the NPS at the April meeting. Schwarz and Szok were invited to the Preservation Awards on May 7th and hopefully, the National Register Award will be announced.

7:11pm: Selective Demo Update: Schwarz spoke with engineer Arron Sturgis, recommended by the Preservation Alliance who came Monday to inspect the property. He will be getting back to us with a preservation plan for selective demo, along with the cost for the work to be done. Schwarz will let the Commission members know when he is coming.

7:20pm: Clock Tower Project: Arron Sturgis (referenced above) said he can also do the repairs to the clock tower. This will be one of the first projects as it creates a liability.

7:27pm: Schwarz distributed a flyer which came in from the NH Preservation Alliance "Tips For Heritage Commissions". It contains great information on various state events, grant opportunities, award ceremonies, etc. Schwarz attended the Historical Society meeting to collaborate on ways to get the word out about our efforts. We need spaces to hang posters and yard signs, such as at the post office and transfer station. We hope to have a public meeting at the school but we are waiting until after the selective demo in order to have more complete information to pass on to the public. Schwarz also bought a book whose author said he gives talks on meeting houses and churches and he said he would be interested in speaking.

Schwarz will follow up with him. Schwarz also booked a talk about the Hutchinson Family Singers, based out of Milford. The mother of the family lived in Mont Vernon and actually sang in our building. This talk is scheduled on Saturday, July 13 at noon in the Town Hall meeting room. Museum may be opened that day as well.

7:36pm: Newsletter: A newsletter, created by Linda Harrop, was distributed for approval. Also discussed was the fund raising theme of "one step at a time". To raise funds, the Commission will sell naming rights to the stairs, windows, stage and bricks for the proposed memorial garden, in conjunction with the Dept. of Beautification. The need for a new Christmas tree was mentioned. Fimbel said the BOS should be discussing this issue. Fimbel said he would speak to the UNH County Forester for ideas on where to get a tree. Placement of the tree could possibly be in the center of the memorial garden in the side yard, with a brick walkway.

Szok motions to continue with the newsletter, second by Goodell, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.

8:01pm: Officer Elections: Szok motioned to re-elect Becci Schwarz as Chair and Brian Billow as Vice-Chair however a discussion followed based on Fimbel mentioning that a resident questioned, via email, whether a town Treasurer could be a Chair of a committee. Schwarz states she rarely votes and it was decided that she would recuse herself from any future votes involving expenditures.

Szok motions to re-elect Schwarz as Chair and Billow as Vice- Chair, second by Goodell, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed. Schwarz accepted Jessica Pomeroy's resignation as Secretary two days after the March meeting.

Szok motions to recommend to BOS the appointment of Linda Harrop as a regular member of the Commission, as Secretary, second by Fimbel, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.

8:12pm: Officer Election: **Fimbel motions to nominate Linda Harrop as Secretary of Commission, contingent on BOS appointment. second by Goodell, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed.**

8:13pm: Brochure: A brochure was previously created as a self-guided tour of Mont Vernon's historic properties and landmarks. Szok volunteered to update the information and add additional sites such as the Bowling Alley and schoolhouse. Zoe Fimbel suggested plaques be placed at each site. This is an on-going fund-raising possibility and could be tied into the DVD that Szok and Ross want to produce about the history of Mont Vernon and the Town Hall.

8:20pm: Historic Resources Subcommittee: The subcommittee will include Szok, Berry and Zoe Fimbel.

8:24pm: Fundraising Subcommittee: It was decided that the summer raffle will be for a paddle board. Billow will have more info next week as to a possible discount on purchase. Posters and flyers will need to be made and posted at Town Hall, the post office, General Store, library, Town Clerk's office. It will also be posted on the Commission's website and Facebook page and in the newsletter. Information will also be sent to the Mont Vernon Flyer. Commission members will be selling tickets at the General Store and transfer station on the following dates between 10:00am and 2:00pm.

May 18 – Schwarz, Harrop

May 25 – Schwarz, Szok, Z. Fimbel

June 1 – Schwarz, Z. Fimbel, Berry

June 8 – Schwarz, Szok, Harrop

8:32: Grant Applications: No new applications since last meeting. Schwarz will write letters of intent for LCHIP and Mooseplate.

8:33pm: Mail and Announcements: Newsletter, already discussed

8:34pm: Meeting Minutes: Berry notes that he was omitted from Community members present at last meeting.

Szok motions to accept the minutes with the addition of Berry's name, second by Billow, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed. Fimbel and Goodell abstain.

8:36pm: Adjournment - **Fimbel motions to adjourn, second by Goodell, no further discussion, all in favor, motion passed. 8:36pm meeting adjourned.**

Next meeting May 9, 2024 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Harrop

Secretary

2024 Action Items

Fundraising/Brick and Mortar

Public sessions

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