

**Mont Vernon Heritage Commission
Public Meeting Minutes 12/10/2020
Approved**

In Attendance: Charles Baker, Rebecca Schwarz, Brian Billow, Randy Wilson

Absent: Tim Berry, Zoe Fimbel, John Morison

Called to Order: 7:04pm

Baker asks Wilson to sit to create a quorum.

LCHIP: Baker states he has not heard back from Berry yet regarding dates for a meeting. Presumes there has been no update at this point.

Certified Local Government: Baker asks if everyone has been able to review the Rules of Procedure document that was circulated. The Commission states yes. Minor edits are discussed as the document is reviewed as a group. Baker states he will make the changes and redistribute the document.

- **Resumes:** As part of Certified Local Government each regular Commission member is to provide a resume with the application outlining their qualifications and interests and experience in regards to historic preservation. Billow asks should we submit a regular resume or is there a specific template they're looking for? Schwarz states that there is no template, and they literally call it a resume so she would presume you should put forth what qualifications you have that would be helpful to the Commission as it identifies properties to be preserved and works through the process of doing such. As an example Schwarz states that she has prior experience in banking/lending and current experience as she is attending Grantsmanship courses. She believes that with Billows work experience he is very qualified to participate in investigation and discovery of properties and funding etc. Billow states he will put something together and send it over. Schwarz states she believes it is confidential information, so it should not go to the group as a whole. Baker states that he would like them to be posted on the website and Schwarz states she believes that would require permission from each member. Baker wonders if we can keep that private due to the fact that our meetings are to be made public. Schwarz states that as she understands it that is regarding our meetings and keeping the town apprised of what is discussed there. We are not required to publish each application and its contents for public review.

• **Historic Resources List:** Baker states that this list is very important and we should focus on it more for the application process. Schwarz agrees the list has not grown as we would like and that it is important to our work, but disagrees that the list is of great importance to the application since part of the Certified Local Government program provides assistance and funding for a Historic Resource Survey, which is one of the benefits to the Town for us to join. Baker states he would like to make sure that Fimbel and Berry work together to populate that list especially since they have such a wealth of knowledge on the town and its history.

2021 Town Meeting: Baker asks Wilson if he's heard anything regarding an annual meeting. Wilson states that as far as he knows at this point no one is sure exactly what's going to happen. As far as he understands it there has to be some sort of meeting because clearly there needs to be a budget etc.

Grants: Schwarz states she does have a grant she wanted to discuss tonight, but it's difficult without Berry present and as we have not yet received an itemized list of the project costs. She says the grant she has in mind is specifically for interior projects and only up to a certain dollar amount. It makes it difficult for us to identify grants we can apply for when we aren't certain of specific project costs. Baker agrees.

Fundraising Subcommittee: Baker wants to create such a committee. States Schwarz has presented many ideas for fundraising, and he thinks it would be beneficial to create a subcommittee to work together outside of our regular meetings and report back to the group. Baker states that he feels that after attending the latest New Hampshire Preservation Alliance meeting discussing fundraising, the biggest takeaway was that we should be going local first before trying to find large dollar donors and 6 figure grants etc. Schwarz says yes, that is exactly what they said. She reiterates for anyone who may not have been present at the last meeting that she has enrolled in a Grantsmanship certificate course at UNH for the benefit of the Commission and as such, the courses required also include fundraising. States that one of the things that was discussed at our last meeting that she is very excited about is the idea of essentially breaking down the building and "selling" windows, stairs, rooms etc, so for certain dollar amounts (yet to be determined) a plaque will be attached with the donors name on that item, and perhaps in the case of a large dollar donation say the Selectmen's Meeting Room could be named after our largest donor etc. This would of course require permission from the Board of Selectmen and requires more discussion and research that is just too much for one person to handle alone. Baker states that he would like some members to volunteer for this group. Billow states he is very interested in participating and he likes this idea. He's interested in pursuing other ideas that we can coordinate all throughout the year. Wilson states that he doesn't know that he could dedicate any time to it at this point, but he feels like it's definitely important and better to do it this way versus the whole group trying to do it all together. Schwarz states that though Fimbel is not present, she believes Fimbel may be interested in participating as well, we should ask at the next meeting.

Announcements: Schwarz states she has received a notification from the NH Preservation Alliance that they will be placing a bulk order of Seven to Save banners. They were waiting to hear back from all of the designees so that they could get a bulk order discount. They will be ordering the banners for a new cost of approximately \$63. There is an exact dollar amount but Schwarz does not have that in front of her at this time. Schwarz has ordered one banner for the Town Hall.

Baker states he believes we should consider making a donation to the NH Preservation Alliance next year, as they are a great resource and we'd like to ensure they have the funds they need. Schwarz states that she agrees, but that we should wait until the end of the year to make such a donation. We are already paying members of the Alliance.

Baker asks Schwarz about the Town Website, what exactly do you have access to. Schwarz states she has access to the Heritage Commission Home page and the Minutes page only. Nothing on any other pages including the Town Calendar. Baker asks what has been the engagement on our Facebook page and the Facebook Chatter. Schwarz states that as of today we have 36 followers, which is very few. She said we get a "like" every now and again, but she creates events on our page for our meetings with links to the meetings and shares those to the Chatter. Schwarz says our posts regarding the Seven to Save program received a lot of attention, and that the Chatter was where Billow found out about us and joined the Commission. Baker states he did see that the library acknowledged the Seven to Save designation on their publications and Schwarz states that's true, and that the ladies from the library were the first to comment and celebrate with us on the announcement.

Schwarz states she had to register for her final classes today for the 2021 spring session, so she would like to prep the Commission that she will be asking for reimbursement of \$868 at our next meeting.

Minutes: Motion by Billow, second by Wilson to accept the minutes as written. All in favor, no further discussion, motion passed.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:55pm

Next meeting: January 14, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Schwarz

Secretary