

Historic District Commission/ Heritage Commission

Minutes of February 12, 2004

Present: T. Furlong, C. Pynn, P. Schena, and G. Stearns

1. Review and approval of September, October, and January minutes

T. Furlong made a motion to accept the January minutes. G. Stearns seconded the motion. The January minutes were accepted by unanimous vote.

The September and October meeting's minutes could be approved due to the lack of a quorum of members who attended each meeting.

2. West Windham Union Hall Follow-up

P. Schena reported that he contacted D. Sullivan, as a follow-up, regarding his research into the boundaries of the West Windham Union Hall Historic District, but workload in Mr. Sullivan's office had not permitted action on the matter as of the meeting.

3. Report on DRED meeting

P. Schena reported to the Commission on a meeting he attended on 12 February that included representatives of the NH DRED and the Town. He noted that discussion centered on the ownership and use of the property and buildings in the Windham Depot Historic District. He further noted that D. Sullivan suggested, after the meeting, that the HDC request an Advisory Committee of the BOS be established to study the long-term use of the Depot site. The Commission agreed with that suggestion and asked that P. Schena advise D. Sullivan accordingly.

4. Presentation and discussion of correspondences and/or other new issues

P. Schena reported on a correspondence received from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance concerning the proposed House Bill 1187 which would allow municipalities the option to deposit land use change tax revenues into a heritage fund. The Commission discussed the matter with considerable interest and agreed that such legislation would provide the Commission with a possible source of funding. P. Schena agreed to research the proposed bill in further detail and to report to the Commission at its next meeting.

C. Pynn reported on her follow-up with Mr. Morris concerning an HDC-drafted letter in support of the Town's CMAQ grant application for the proposed "rails to trails" project. Based on the Commission's previous discussions on this matter and its support, P. Schena agreed to draft such a letter to be forwarded to the appropriate parties.

The Commission revisited the matter of Town Hall access for its meetings. P. Schena reported that D. Sullivan's office could provide a key to the building earlier on the day of the meeting. He further reported that access to Library meeting rooms as an alternative was limited on a permanent, recurring basis. G. Stearns suggested contacting the Police Department to discuss the availability of meeting space. P. Schena agreed to do so.

5. Review of plan/project submissions

The Commission reviewed the Cider House Subdivision Plan (8-C-300 and 7-B-30) and the Bowes Site Plan (11-A-240) and prepared remarks for submission to the Planning and Zoning Board.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted in draft form,

Patrick J. Schena
Chairman, Windham Historic District Commission