



Milford Heritage Commission

Town Hall

1 Union Square

Milford NH 03055

Minutes January 2024

Meeting Date: January 10, 2024, 7:00pm, conducted in the Town Hall Banquet Room

Participating:

David Palance, Chairman	Paul Dargie, BoS Representative
Chris Thompson, Vice Chair	David Alcox, Alternate
Sarah Brown, Treasurer	Katherine Kokko, Alternate
Sara Weyant-Bunn, Member	Jeff Wells, Citizen
Paul Liamos, Secretary	Michael Thornton, Citizen

Review of Minutes:

The December meeting did not meet quorum, November minutes were reviewed and voted into record as amended.

New Business

Mill Street Apartments conceptual plans - Chris T. presented the plans and provided a brief history of a Mill Yard and Lumber Yard. In April of 1930, Mill Street was declared Milford's newest street, previously this was a short-cut path for residents of West Street to access the town center. Acquired by the town from Charles Serio and a donation from William Keith and D. Whiting & Sons. An important feature is the granite and cement wall which supports the cemetery and encroaches the road at the sharp turn. More recently this was the site of Calvin Merrill's Sawmill, and Grain Store. The Commission suggested that the naming and decor of the proposed building should honor the past use.

No heritage impact

Annual Report – Dave P. earlier solicited comments, and these were discussed, and actions were taken to flesh out this important set of accomplishments to be published in the Town Report.

Contra Dance at the Town Hall – Dave P. presented an inquiry from the organizer, Sandy Lafleur, of the Contra Dance that has been held monthly for over 30 years. She is looking for support from the Commission as recent schedule and fee changes could jeopardize this important multi-generation activity. The Commission discussed the importance as a tradition, historically rich for Town Hall and the Town. The Town Hall building is important for preserving the

cultural heritage of contra dancing for the community given the accessibility. The Commission, however, is not involved with negotiating fee & schedule for Town Hall and suggested that the inquiry from Sandy should be taken the Selectboard, (BoS) to negotiate these changes. The Commission voted to provide a letter of support to the BoS. Dave P. volunteered to write a letter of support for contra dancing at town hall for historical, traditional activity and circulate the letter to the Commission for editing.

2024 upcoming Commission nominations – Sarah Brown, Treasurer and Katherine Kokko, Alternate seats are set to expire in April. Sarah will not be accepting a renomination and Katherine will accept another 3 yr. term. Dave P. asked for suggestions to fill this and perhaps another seat.

Snowmobile Connection and improvements to Foster Rd. – Paul Dargie and Jeff Wells presented a non-agenda request for review. Resident and abutter Jeff Wells is seeking the Commission’s opinion on the use or the closing of Foster Rd. extending to Wallingford Rd. Trail maintenance has been done to make access for hiking and recreational vehicles on this Class VI road. After discussion and review of a package containing maps and photos, the Commission agreed to investigate and return comments to the Board of Selectmen for discussion and decision.

Old Business

Financial report – Sarah presented the draft invoice policy for discussion. After discussion and review members are to submit these to Sarah for edits and return for review and vote at the next meeting. Katherine suggested another meeting with the Town Finance Director to affirm the conclusions of their previous meeting including account tracking and balances. Corrections to the check and letter pertaining to donations from the Milford Historical Society were discussed. The original check to be voided and returned as it was made out to a trust where it should have been addressed to the Town Bandstand fund. Dave P. agreed to update/correct the letter to the BoS and submit with the new check. Dave P. will also follow-up with the BHT to check that they have been paid.

Laurel Schoolhouse project – Katherine announced that we did not get the LCHIP grant due to competing requests for funds, a de-brief will be offered this week to give us insight on the decision process. Katherine presented an alternative funding plan to the BoS and they agreed to complete the roof estimated at \$18,000 with surplus funds to be managed by DPW this spring. Sarah and Dave P. will validate the decision with official minutes and discussion with the Finance Director. The Keyes Foundation sent out a request for applications of funds for the year. Katherine was authorized by vote to contact them for clapboard replacement, paint and lead mitigation.

Bandstand renovation project – Katherine reported that the Mooseplate grant is not yet formal and that the board will meet on 31Jan for decision. We have high confidence on this award. Katherine is drafting a Statement of Work for the renovation and that one of the bidders has dropped-out due to retirement. This leaves JR Graton Historical Restoration (the contractor for

the Belmont Bandstand restoration). Dave P. will share the contact information of the contractor who restored the Townsend MA bandstand for a competitive bid (see below). The BoS has approved the completion of funding (\$28,000) in the budget to be submitted to the voters in March. The Warrant article was removed.

Date of Next Meeting: February 14th @ 7:00pm on zoom and the Banquet Room, Town Hall

Call to Adjourn: 8:35 PM

Ref:

The Townsend MA bandstand was under restoration and nearing completion in the beginning of August 2023. David Palance by suggestion of Rick Mossey of the Trustees of the Trust Funds suggested contacting the Townsend Town Clerk at 978-597-1700 ext 1701. Eric informed us that the contractor is Todd Arseneault & Sons and can be reached at 978-400-8314 or e-mail dantodaas@aol.com. The town officers are pleased with his performance and result. David took several photos.