



Milford Heritage Commission

Town Hall

1 Union Square

Milford NH 03055

Minutes September 2023

Meeting Date: September 13, 2023, 7:00pm, conducted in the Town Hall Banquet Room

Participating:

David Palance, Chairman	Paul Dargie, BoS Representative
Chris Thompson, Vice Chair	Paul Lamos, Secretary
Sara Weyant-Bunn, Member	Mitch Hemmer, GTM

Review of Minutes:

The July minutes were reviewed and voted into record. The August meeting was canceled.

New Business

LED lamp replacement project – David discussed plans and a presentation given to the BoS about a proposal to replace the incandescent lamps inside all the town owned buildings for energy and cost reduction. Katherine commented to the BoS that the fixtures in the Town Hall Auditorium are unique and present historical significance. Paul Dargie explained some of the details of the project and that the decision was made by the BoS to put this project out to bid. A discussion of the project scope was held and of what specific fixtures would need to be preserved if possible. A consensus was made that the Auditorium fixtures would be the most important and difficult to replicate. The Commission was interested in modifying any bid to include the sensitivity of these fixtures.

Myrtle St. Wall – Chris explained the research that he performed in the Cabinet archives. A Cabinet Newspaper article of 1898 shows community discontent with the road agent and explained a task to correct a "botched job" in the original creation of lower Myrtle St or South Myrtle St. as it was known. Originally the section of road between Billings St and Mont Vernon Road was but a dirt walkway with a severe slope. In November of 1935, the feature was brought before the board, \$1,000 was appropriated but the completion required more than four times as much. Later the next year improvements were still being made. Discussion was held with the following comments/questions:

- Is this considered a bridge? And thus, be included in the inventory of bridges in town to be maintained.
- Is this structure to current building codes?
- Where did the original contact come from? Was this a complaint by a resident?

The conclusion is that this is not a very well-known, beloved feature in town and most have no idea that it is even there. There was not a great concern among the members present that this is a known town artifact to be preserved. However, the story of its construction and mis-attempts to create a safe passage along with the contraction and the use of local granite is a Milford unique story. Getting this on the historical register may present a challenge as the public may be unaware of this. David volunteered to report our concerns to the Town Engineer, Nicole Crawford.

Old Business

Financial report – David spoke for Katherine and Sarah to report the outcome of their meeting with the Town Finance Director, Paul Calabria. Draft minutes of this meeting were shared in hard copy until they are approved. Accounts were settled and Account numbers assigned to the Commission current projects. A quarterly report will be presented by Town Finance to assure that invoices are paid out of the correct accounts. Corrections were made to the errors when invoices were paid in the past. The accounts are all non-lapsing and restricted to the desire of the donors to specific projects. We need to discuss the details and any policy changes, but it was presented that the Commission would vote to pay future invoices through our treasurer who will indicate the specific account and justification. The discretionary account was validated, and the group voted unanimously to pay the outstanding \$400 owed to the Black Heritage Trail for the marker at Bicentennial Park.

The Heritage Commission is tracking the following:

• 4050-40514	Swing Bridge	\$ 7,856.00	
• 4800-573014	Black Heritage Trail:	(\$ 400.00)	0.00
• 4800-48271	Pillsbury Bandstand:	\$42,146.72	
• 4800-48408	Schoolhouse:	\$ 9,452.51	
• 4050-40502	Discretionary Account (non-lapsing):	\$ 4,165.73	(-400.00)
		Balance total: \$ 63,220.96	

Laurel Schoolhouse project – Katherine sent a proposed letter around to discuss and vote at this meeting. In her absence David presented the letter to Keyes Memorial Trust explaining the 1772 Foundation Grant status and the LCHP application requiring matching funds. We approached the BoS for \$17,000 but \$7,000 remains to complete the match. The letter was voted and approved, David to send (letter 49).

Bandstand renovation project – David suggested that the Commission use the upcoming Pumpkin Festival event to do some education on the Bandstand. Our postmortem investigation into the loss of the warrant article was due mostly to misinformation and that an education campaign would help our chances at the next voting session. We discussed the rental of tables is too late as this popular event is booked up. Ideas were offered such as a large q-code sign for visitors to scan, and enhanced web link with the education concerns and the handing out of flyers. We learned that the event does not allow the use of fliers and that we may be late to be ready for the event. The conclusion was that having a trifold/brochure and good web content is critical even if not ready for the festival. Chris and Sara volunteered to draft these promotional pieces, David will provide content from our research and grant applications.

Black Heritage Trail project – David reported that the application for the next marker (the Harriet Wilson House or the Nehemiah Hayward Homestead) was sent and acknowledged by the BHT. We should expect activity in the spring of 2024 with the physical marker and any events for the unveiling.

Date of Next Meeting: October 11, 2023 @ 7:00pm on zoom and the Banquet Room, Town Hall

Call to Adjourn: 8:04 PM