

HAVERHILL HERITAGE COMMISSION
Minutes – Thursday, Octoberber 25th, 2012
James R. Morrill Municipal Building
Draft Subject to Review, Correction and Approval at Following Meeting

Attending: Jim Hobbs, Wayne Fortier, Dick Ekwall

Absent: Don Robinson

Public Attendance: Robert Fillion

Jim Hobbs, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

***** Review of the September minutes were accepted**

Motion by Wayne, second by Dick ... motion unanimously moved.

***** Treasury report: The current balance is \$2704.17, which includes \$200.00 from Haverhill Historical Society to help defray the cost of the caboose decal. There will be an addendum to these minutes as a year-end balance to the account which will include the totals in each account category.**

***** Caboose Report from Dick Ekwall:**

Dick talked about starting plans for restoring the interior of the caboose and there was discussion about moving it toward the Court/Central four corners where the track ends. It would get much more exposure. There was discussion about turning the interior into a railroad museum. Wayne mentioned he has been made aware of a gentleman who invests in railroad restorations. He will look further into it. We also have to decide just what purpose the caboose is going o be used.

***** Hazen report: Jim and Richard Patten pulled down several grapevines at Hazen Park and delivered them to Sherry at the armory to use in the haunted house. Thanks Richard! Mr. Fields has looked at the brush pile at the park and will hopefully, weather permitting, do some crushing of brush and remove a couple of stumps from that area. Jim still plans on seeding grass before snow falls. Jim stated he and Richard Patten have roughed out new trails and picnic areas in the north-east corner of the park and a small rock garden with day lilies has also been made.**

***** Jim has not, as yet, received an estimate for Haverhill's north-west boundary marker which was to be placed on "No Man's Island". This has to be rethought as the Bagonzi's have voiced concerns to Wayne Fortier as to liability.**

***** Wayne Fortier purchased a "Granite Marker" and a Butternut tree. Thanks Wayne!**

***** Warrants were unanimously authorized to pay for Hazen Park expenses, the caboose logo, and for park donation passes. They will be posted in the year-end bank account addendum.**

***** The park warrant had the words "over budget" which Wayne questioned. I checked with Jo Lacaillade. She clarified that it did not mean the park budget was over budget. Rather, it was that the Heritage account was over budget until the warrant was paid.**

***** There were questions about the 2013 Park Donation Pass. Wayne was concerned about people who didn't contribute ... receiving a colorful pass. Would people that haven't donated be exclude to park usage. The answer is "No". Every responsible adult, resident or not, contributor or not, is welcome to use the park.**

There was discussion as to exactly what the park would be used for. It would be available as a serene place to walk around the large flower garden in the lower area bordering the river ... as a place for leisurely walks along the many trails ... as an historical center with memory boards depicting how the property originally was ... as a

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place to have a secluded family picnic ... as an educational center for children to se the many different trees that will be identified ... as a place for river canoe and kayakers to camp. The Dartmouth canoe club used to canoe upriver and stay in the Sawyer-Hazen house over night; returning to Hanover the next morning. Dick Ekwel is going to validate this and see if we might get a yearly grant from Dartmouth to help re-construct the house and fireplace, which could be used, again, by Dartmouth and others enjoying the river.

*** There was an inquiry by Wayne as to the cost to operate the park. Jim stated it could run as high as \$35,000 a year. Jim said the cost would depend entirely upon the actual usage of the park. If we held events we would have restroom costs, busing costs to prevent over use by vehicles, mowing 3 acres, picnic tables, benches, an equipment shed, fencing, look-out decks, a golf cart perhaps, generators, water pumps, hoses, tools, etc ... all dependent on just what the park is finally used for. The less usage; the less expense. Jim stated that people have been very generous with money, labor and materials and he is sure this generosity will continue as park awareness increases.

*** The next topic was that a representative of Coldwell Banker, in Littleton, called Jim asking if HHC would consider taking over the deed, from the estate, for the distressed Pike property, formerly Pike Manufacturing Co. This is the property in Pike with the dated chimney that HHC considered a couple of years ago. Wayne stated he had been asked to talk at the Senior Center, the day before (10-24-2012) to discuss the 250th Anniversary. Wayne said several Pike residents asked what the town was going to do about saving the dated chimney. Wayne, when asked, said he was quite certain the select board would not be interested in taking the deed. He would, however, talk to the agent about the possibility of some kind of HHC partnering in the chimney restoration. Wayne asked Jim to get as much information on the heirs intentions and he (Wayne) would talk to the agent after returning from D.C. next week.

*** The chair offered to start an historic awareness program at each meeting. Jim said we could have 15 minutes allocated each meeting in the agenda for a speaker, with five minutes after for questions and/or discussion. The questions would not, necessarily, have to be immediately answered. They could be used as material for another talk/meeting. Mr. Fillion has attended every meeting so Chairman Hobbs asked him if he , being an historian, would be willing to participate. Mr. Fillion made no attempt to acknowledge the chairs question. Wayne Fortier repeated the question and Mr. Fillion completely ignored him.

*** The idea was tabled.

*** Dick made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Wayne and unanimously passed.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:17 p. m.

*** Date for next meeting is scheduled for January 31st. 2013.

Jim Hobbs, acting secretary.