



Monday, October 5, 2020  
Heritage Commission Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Room  
Derry Municipal Center

Present: Karen Blandford-Anderson, Chairperson, Mark Wiseman, Catherine Bauman, Paul Lindemann, Vice Chairperson

Missing: TJ Cullinane, Denise Neale (resigned), Nicole Chalfant

Call to order: 7:00pm

#### **Chairperson's Report**

- Update on the South Main Street – (Circle of Friend's property). They are moving ahead with their planning.
- Dr. Butterfield is planning to sell the property and potential. Paul Lindemann will talk to George Sirois on the status.

#### **Museum Update by Mark Mastromarino**

- Brenda Keith's mom's Fancy Stitching Machine was delivered and is in the back room. New shoe industry exhibit has not yet been reconstituted around it.
- I met with Tom Goulet who is working on an Images of America book on Island Pond as a fundraiser for Friends of Island Pond. He will be bringing a scanner to the museum to obtain images and information from our collections (I have not yet checked with Rick for those in the digital files). I informed him of one-time permission to use and credit line. He is a great storehouse of information and would be willing to give a talk on his research on Governor's Island in a new DPL lecture series.
- Rich Corson will be visiting from Florida this month to do genealogical research in New Hampshire, including Derry and Forest Hill (I researched the queries he had directed to Pinkerton Alumni Association archives, and referred him to TJ). TJ can provide details.
- I have done documentary, photographic, and oral history research on Matthew Thornton horse chestnut tree (which research will eventually be organized and resented) that has now been removed from Association Hall property, and found no evidence it was actually planted by Thornton in 1776. Obtained genetic material from it and from the William Whipple horse chestnut tree at the Moffatt-Ladd House in Portsmouth run by the Colonial Dames, and request funds to have a comparative DNA analysis done on the two to confirm my suspicions that our tree was not given as a chestnut by the Continental Congress (hard to prove a negative, however). I haven't followed up with NH Extension Service yet on cost or possibility of that analysis. The remains of the tree trunk are currently at Alan Cote's property in Auburn,

who allowed me to cut a disc from it this past Saturday. (He will be turning a bowl or bowls for Upper Room charity auction in November. He has been very helpful. We should pass a resolution thanking him for his assistance.) The blade of the chainsaw I rented was not long enough to cut an adequate disc, so I will continue my search for a 24-inch bar and return. I did obtain some wood of the tree to make museum souvenirs for sale (if anyone has any ideas; pens? toothpicks?) Ralph Bonner's son Paul does finish work like Alan and has committed to working the disc once obtained into a display for the museum. We have not discussed costs.

- New accessions continue to come in from Rick Holmes.

#### **Current Project – Paul Lindemann**

- Visited Arthur Caras – Historic Sled will be held by him and we'll follow-up with him later to see how we could use it at a future time.
- Hood Park Reimaging Park with a good team of people to redevelop Hood Park for a better public experience. Looking for data collection to brainstorm ideas on what people would like to see at the park. Moving along with public input.
- Derryfest – Derry Media Community Update – did a virtual Derryfest. 2.5 Hours of scenes from the past 40 years and sponsors produced videos to help raise money for the Opera House. Paul to send us a link to the program.
- Downtown Mural Project – Paul requested two new Spudcrows about Rev. McGregor and Mrs. McGregor. Karen Blandford-Anderson requisitioned a Robert Frost on to put out at the Museum.
- Meeting House Project – 2 new projects this year. Elevator will be installed. Fundraising has been successful within the congregation, but outreach is slow.
- Church – Walking path and 7 circles around equal a mile. There are also 7 stopping points with meditation and spiritual element. Rehab information is also great.
- Time Capsule – photos and list (GoogleDoc)

#### **New Business**

- Moving Catherine Bauman to the Stagecoach/Robert Frost Byway Committee
- Mark Wiseman to become a liaison to the Derry Economic Development Commission and is also interested.

**Adjourned 7:40pm**