

Rockingham Historical Commission (CLG) Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:30pm
3rd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

MEETING MINUTES

Present: John Leppman, *Chair*
Gary Fox
Jonah Bolotin
Christy Hotaling, *CLG Coordinator*

Agenda:

1. Meeting House Maintenance
2. Welcome Center Brochure Renewal
3. 2015 CLG Grant
4. Other Business

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm.

Minutes of December 19, 2013 meeting are unanimously approved.

1. Meeting House Maintenance

- CH explains that the CLG has \$3,800 from the maintenance budget that must be spent by June 30, 2014. The maintenance priority is fire code updates, including: new railings, exit door alterations, and ramp alterations. The railings and exit door alterations will be done by Frank Anderson of the Town highway department. We will need to send out a Request for Proposals for the ramp alterations. In July, the CLG would like to have a small section of clapboards to the left of the main entrance replaced. The current clapboards were put on a few years ago and are not in keeping with the rest of the building. Jon Jessup replaced the clapboards to the right of the main entrance a few years ago; the CLG would like to have the remaining clapboards finished.
- JL asks if the Association should contribute to the maintenance costs. CH responds that the funds set aside in the Town budget for Meeting House maintenance should be used first, the Commission can discuss this if more funding is necessary.

2. Welcome Center Brochure Renewal

- CH announces that it's time to renew our Welcome Center Brochure contract. Last year, we displayed the Meeting House brochures at the Guilford and Hartford Welcome Centers from June 15th—October 15th. The total cost was \$108. We would like to do the same this year, as it seems that the brochures were popular and potentially increased visitation. CH is wondering if the Association will cover the \$108 fee again this year.

JL says that he will put this on the agenda for their next meeting on March 30th. If the Association approves, JL will bring a check to the next CLG meeting.

3. 2015 CLG Grant

- CH informs the Commission that she has just applied and been approved for the 2015 CLG Grant. This year, the CLG will conduct a Support, Interpretation and Historic Stewardship grant. The grant will include funding for: the annual Old House Awards, the Speakers Program, Training, and the development of a Rockingham Meeting House and Vicinity history curriculum to dovetail with the History curriculum for grades 6-8. JB asks if the curriculum will include the histories of other meeting houses throughout Vermont. The Commission agrees that this is a good suggestion. JL informs the Commission that a recent Vermont architecture book by Andres includes the Rockingham Meeting House and others, we should try to get slides from Andres to showcase our place in Vermont architecture as a component of the curriculum.

4. Other Business

- CH shares with the Commission her progress on the Vermont Academy National Register nomination. Thus far, CH has conducted research on the Academy's history and architecture. CH will submit a draft to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation on April 1st. The Town has hired a historic preservation consultant, Lyssa Papazian, to assist CH with drafting the nomination.
- CH updates the Commission on the progress of the Speakers Program. On March 8th Architect, Alan Berry, gave a presentation, "Historic Architecture & Adaptive Reuse in Downtowns," at the Windham Antique Center. Approximately 25 people attended. On March 19th, Urban Planner, Tripp Muldrow, spoke at the Great Falls Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner about, "The Importance of Downtowns, Marketing, Branding, & Collaboration." On March 26th, the CLG will host Author, Michael Tougias, at the Waypoint Center. Tougias will present his Vermont Humanities Council Lecture: "400 Miles Down the Connecticut River." On May 8th, William Hosley, Cultural Resource Development Consultant, will present his Vermont Humanities Council Lecture: "More Than Books," at the Rockingham Free Public Library.
- JL updates the Commission on the 2014 Pilgrimage plans. This year the Association will be updating the Anthology from the 250th Anniversary, and members will act out the Anthology in lieu of "professional" entertainment.
- The Commission discusses the need to nominate new members to the Commission. We need one new member as soon as possible, and we will need two additional new members once JB and Hayden Noyes leave for college in the fall of 2014. JB shares that a classmate of his, Anna Clark, is interested in potentially joining the Commission. JB will invite Anna to the next Commission meeting. FW would like to invite Julie Meserve, a

Landscape Architect. GF suggests that the Commission invite local builders to join, so that we have their knowledge base to aid in decision making.

- GF asks about what is happening with the Robinson Paper Mill? The Commission discusses. At the moment the phase I and phase II assessments are in progress. The Island Committee will be looking at what to do next. JL will apply to represent the Commission on the Island Committee.
- The next meeting will be held on May 22, 2014 at 6:30p.m.

Meeting adjourns at 8:00pm.

Meeting notes submitted by Christy Hotaling, CLG Coordinator.