

Rockingham Historical Commission (CLG) Meeting
Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 5:00pm
3rd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

MEETING NOTES

Present: John Leppman, *Chair* (JL)
Gary Fox (GF)
Charlie Hunter (CH)
Myles Mickle (MM)
Christy Hotaling, *CLG Coordinator* (CFH)

Agenda:

1. Welcome New Members—Charlie Hunter and Myles Mickle
2. Old House Awards—Schedule and Details
3. Other Business

Meeting called to order at 6:10 pm.

Minutes of December 10, 2014, February 25, 2015 and April 29, 2015 meetings were reviewed and unanimously approved

1. Welcome New Members

- The Commission welcomes new members Charlie Hunter and Myles Mickle.

2. Old House Awards

- CFH prompts discussion of the annual Old House Awards. The Commission discusses details and scheduling and decides that they will submit a press release by July 10th calling for the nomination of property owners who have completed exterior improvements to their historic properties in the past 5 years. The deadline for the submissions of nominations will be July 30th. **The Commission will meet next on August 13th at 5:30pm to review nominations and vote.** The Commission will then announce winners the week of September 10th. The Commission discusses hosting a small gathering to celebrate the winning property owners.
- CH recommends that we make the press material more clear; stating instead that the public may nominate property owners of either residential or commercial properties. The Commission agrees. CFH will send a copy of the revised press material (i.e. press release and poster) to the Commission before sending them to the local papers. CFH also mentions that in 2013 the Commission did not receive enough nominations and Commission members had to go out into the community themselves to

look for qualifying properties to nominate; so the Commission should be prepared to seek out nominations in case this happens again.

3. Other Business

- CFH reintroduces the idea of hosting a community forum on historic preservation, which was discussed at our last meeting on April 29th. CH would like part of the focus to be on supporting more owner occupied housing in Rockingham. MM would like to incorporate information pertaining to resources for owners of historic properties, including: tax incentives, grant opportunities, assistance finding reliable contractors and maintenance advice. When you buy a home where do you start and who do you trust? The Commission discusses potential panel members, including representatives from Housing Vermont, Preservation Trust of Vermont, Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, a local contractor skilled in preservation/restoration projects, state tax credits. CH mentions partnering with BFDA and the Chamber. CH would like to ask Town Moderator Michael Harty to moderate the discussion; the Commission agrees that Michael would be more than suitable for the task. CFH doesn't think that the Commission has a clear focus yet and asks everyone to consider why owner occupied housing is important and how it fits into our mission as a CLG Commission. CH says that the practical focus should be to encourage home ownership; the Commission can serve as an advocate for preserving the town's historic housing stock. JL says that at Dan Scully's talk in March it was evident that community members do not feel well supported in their efforts and likewise do not feel that their home values were secure and therefore worth their efforts. The Commission recommends choosing a tentative date for the event. CFH reminds the Commission that she is currently working on the Old House Awards and the Rockingham Meeting House Curriculum for a grant which needs to be completed by September; CFH will not realistically be able to focus on organizing this event until after these projects are complete in September. CFH cautions the Commission not to rush and throw this event together; it needs a clearer intent and details need to be well thought out. The Commission sets a tentative date of November 12th.
- JL notes that he attended the premier viewing of Lyle Sorenson's film "A View from Table Rock" in Williamsville a few weeks ago. The film will be shown at the Bellows Falls Opera House this summer. CFH will let the Commission know what that date will be.
- CH notes that the "Reservoir House" on Minard's Pond was moved this past year; it is now located at the edge of the pond. CH would like for the Commission to keep an eye on this structure and make recommendations for its preservation in the future.

Meeting adjourns at 6:45 pm

Meeting minutes submitted by Christy Hotaling, CLG Coordinator