

**Rockingham Historical Commission (CLG) Meeting**  
**Thursday, August 13, 2015 at 5:30pm**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room, Town Hall**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Present:** John Leppman, *Chair* (JL)  
Charlie Hunter (CH)  
Myles Mickle (MM)  
Francis Walsh, *Development Director* (FW)  
Christy Hotaling, *CLG Coordinator* (CFH)

**Agenda:**

1. Old House Awards—Schedule and Details
2. Other Business

**Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm.**

**Minutes of June 25, 2015 are unanimously approved pending the correction of the time that the last meeting was called to order—from 6:10 pm to 5:10pm.**

**1. Old House Awards**

- The Commission discusses the nominations for the Old House Awards. MM introduces four additional properties to be considered. After much discussion, the Commission unanimously agrees that 14 Hapgood Street in Bellows Falls and 15 Westminster Street & Main Street Arts in Saxtons River are the obvious winners. 14 Hapgood Street wins the “Large Residence” category for their recent exterior paint job and beautiful reconstruction of their historic front porch. Main Street Arts wins the “Public Building” category for their major addition. 15 Westminster Streets wins the “Small Residence” category for the complete renovation of her 1950s cottage. All three selected properties have undergone extensive exterior renovations and have helped to improve the visual and historic appeal of our community!
- The Commission agrees that the remaining nominations are deserving of an honorable mention for all of their tremendous efforts to maintain and preserve their homes. CFH will send letters to the following properties to inform them that someone in the community nominated their property for an award and to commend them for their efforts: 12 Maple St in Saxtons River, and 5 Pond Rd, 28 School St, 30 School St, & 39 School St in Bellows Falls.
- MM mentions changing the font on the awards to something more attractive. The Commission agrees that they will find a more suitable text.

## **2. Other Business**

- JL asks about the recent Robinson Paper Mill grant. FW explains that this is an EPA Technical Assistance grant for \$130,000, part of which must be used to have a corrective action plan produced. There is also Brownfield Revitalization funds, which will help the town make decisions about the property.
- CH asks when the Bridge Street Bridge lamp posts will be installed. FW says that the Town is waiting until construction on the bridge is complete so that the posts will not be put at risk for damage. This is a large complicated project with multiple grants and schedules involved; it is unknown when the posts will be installed. The replacement posts are cast iron replicas; they are being stored at the town garage.
- JL and CH ask if there are any updates on the Vilas Bridge. FW says that there are no new updates; the future of the bridge is in the hands of the State of New Hampshire; they have to be willing to maintain the bridge into the future.
- The Commission asks for updates on the TLR and Chemco buildings. FW explains that he put out an RFP last winter for the TLR buildings asking for proposals from architects. In exchange, the Town would sell the buildings for \$1 if a reasonable proposal was submitted and accepted. This would help to preserve the buildings and also return the property to the tax roll. None of the architects were interested in submitting a proposal due to major access issues and the lack of space and integrity. We are currently waiting to hear if the Chemco building will receive a USDA matching grant for \$250,000 for technical assistance. The proposed plan for the building is to renovate and turn it into a Justice Center for the Windham County Sheriff's Department. This would be a state of the art facility and the first of its kind.
- CH asks about the Community Forum that the Commission discussed at the last meeting. FW agrees that a forum discussing housing issues is necessary in our community but that it is not within the CLG's limited role to organize it as a town sanctioned commission. This is something that another organization in our community could host.
- MM mentions the cold LED lights that were installed in downtown Bellows Falls. They are extremely bright, an odd blue color, unattractive and potentially a safety hazard due to the intensity of their light.
- The Commission will meet next on October 8, 2015 at 5:30.

**Meeting adjourns at 7:15 pm**

**Meeting minutes submitted by Christy Hotaling, CLG Coordinator**