

Rockingham Historical Commission (CLG) Meeting
Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 3:30pm
3rd Floor Conference Room, Town Hall

MEETING NOTES

Present: John Leppman, *Chair*
Myles Mickle
Gary Fox
Paula Sagerman, *Historic Preservation Consultant*
Francis Walsh, *Development Director*
Christy Hotaling, *CLG Coordinator*

Agenda:

1. Discuss the Commission's priorities for the mitigation of adverse effects of the Robertson Paper Mill Section 106 Review
2. Other Business

The Commission met at the Robertson Paper Mill at 2:30 pm to walk through the building with historic preservation consultant, Paula Sagerman.

Meeting called to order at 3:30 pm.

Minutes of October 8, 2015 are unanimously approved

1. PS gives the CLG an overview of what a Section 106 Review is and the process that is involved. FW notes that this Section 106 Review was initiated by the EPA, as the building is slated for demolition. The EPA wrote in a letter to the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer, Laura Trieschmann on January 6, 2016: "*The(se) poor structural conditions pose an increased threat of release of these hazardous substances and a potential public health threat which must be addressed. These conditions also complicate the process of cleaning up the asbestos and lead paint. Instead of the typical abatement practices, demolition will now be required for the cleanup to safely proceed.*" PS explains specific tasks that the property's owner must complete in order to mitigate the adverse effects of demolishing the building; including: a Historic Structure Report, Photo Documentation, Measured Drawings, Interpretive Panel(s) & Wayfinding Signage, Archaeological Investigations, and Public Participation. James Duggan, of the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, set these tasks specifically for this project. PS notes that completing mitigation will be expensive. The CLG is not responsible for funding or completing any of the tasks; that responsibility is with the property owner. The CLG's role is simply to review the report and make recommendations. The Commission discusses the section on Archaeological Investigations; questioning whether the stipulations are necessary. The Commission discusses the historic structure report and photo documentation, which must be completed by a qualified consultant, in addition to the measured drawings and

interpretive signage. PS explains that the measured drawings would show the building's elevations; another way to document the building. MM suggests saving copies of the drawings perhaps to be used in the future as images on the interpretive signage. The Commission discusses other ways to preserve the history of the building, including; a video tour of the building's interior & exterior and oral histories from local people who may have worked in the mill. The Commission clarifies that such endeavors will not be added to the Section 106 Review, which is already extensive. Instead, the Commission will consider undertaking projects, such as these, in the future. This would be the Commission's contribution to the history of the Robertson Paper Mill. PS states that there still needs to be a public hearing for the public to comment on the Section 106 Review. The meeting will be organized by the property owner. The Commission unanimously votes to approve of the Section 106 Review as presented.

2. Lastly, the Commission discusses the urgent need to advertise for a docent to work at the Rockingham Meeting House this coming season. CH agrees to put together an article to send to the local papers. JL will help with this. The Commission also agrees to research wayfinding signage and interpretive historical signs so that they may assist the Robertson Paper Mill's property owner with the design, content and placement of the historic signage.

The next meeting will be on either April 21, 2016 or April 28, 2016 at 5:30 pm, pending scheduling concerns

Minutes submitted by Christy Hotaling, CLG Coordinator