

Rockingham Historical Commission (CLG) Meeting
Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 5:00pm
Youth Program Room, Rockingham Free Public Library

MEETING NOTES

Present: John Leppman, *Chair*
Charlie Hunter
Gary Fox
Christy Hotaling, *CLG Coordinator* (“CFH”)

Agenda:

1. Update from the Annual Downtown & Historic Preservation Conference By Gary Fox
2. Rockingham Meeting House Updates
3. Other Business

Meeting called to order at 5:00 pm.

Minutes of April 21, 2016 are unanimously approved

1. Downtown & Historic Preservation Conference

- GF updates the Commission on the Conference, specifically in regards to the special CLG session that was led by Devin Coleman from the VT Division of Historic Preservation. The Division will now be enforcing all requirements of the grant process. This includes having CLG Communities update their town survey every 5 years. There are 6 new communities applying for CLG status in Vermont; this will mean more competition for the same amount of grant funding. The Commission discusses the town survey and what that will mean for us now having to review and update it every 5 years. The Commission agrees that we already do so near annually as we’ve been making an effort to expand the survey in order to represent the whole community.

2. Rockingham Meeting House

- CFH updates the Commission on the Meeting House. A new handicap accessible ramp was built and installed by Jonathan Jesup of Westminster in June. The ramp replaced an earlier ramp, which did not meet ADA standards and was not built to match the architectural style of the Meeting House.
- The Commission discusses the Roots on the River celebration. JL says that the event went well. The balcony was not because the stairs and the railing do not meet fire safety code.
- CFH informs the commission that Rosemarri Roth was hired in June to serve as a second docent. Rosemarri has been a great addition to the Meeting House; she is very enthusiastic about the building’s history, welcoming to guests, and her and Soupy get along very well. Donations collected at the Meeting House have

increased substantially since she was hired. JL says that he visited the Meeting House last week and had a guided tour by Rosemarri. The docents have set up in the main part of the building at the main entrance.

- CFH asks if JL has spoken with the Meeting House Association and Frank Hawkins about commissioning a hand painted wooden open sign. JL says that the Association has agreed to pay for the sign; they're waiting to hear back from Frank (he may have retired). CH offers to paint the sign if the Association can get a wooden sign made.

3. Other Business

- GF asks how to access Rockingham's historic survey. CFH says that the VT Division of Historic Preservation has a database on their website where you can search by Town or County. CFH would like to have the links/files available on the Town's website by this fall.
- CH asks if there's anything going on with the Pump House up at Minard's Pond? CFH says that the Chip, the Municipal Manager, had asked her to look into finding funding to restore it. The VT Division of Historic Preservation said that since it has been moved off of the pond and no longer serves its original purpose the building is not eligible for federal funding through them or otherwise. CH suggests contacting Paul Bruhn at the Vermont Preservation Trust. They have small grants to help property owners pay for a professional to assess their structures issues and recommend a repair plan. CH offers to design one of his old time travel posters to sell to raise money for a matching grant. CFH agrees to contact the Preservation Trust and see what is available. The Commission discusses potential necessary repairs including: a new roof, paint, windows and a door. The Pump House could be a great educational and recreational asset to the community!

The next meeting is tentatively set for September 1st, 2016 at 5:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:00 pm.

Minutes submitted by Christy Hotaling, CLG Coordinator