

HENNIKER HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MEETING OF MAY 13, 2021

The meeting was brought to order by Chairman Lisa Hustis at 4:00 in the Town Hall.

Attending: Susan Adams, Joe Devine, Peter Flynn, Lisa Hustis, Bill McGowan, Warren Mattiello and Bob Pogano.

Commission Organization: A motion was made by Bob Pogano and seconded by Bill McGowan to reelect the the current officers for the coming year: Lisa Hustis, Chairman; Warren Mattiello, Vice-Chairman; Susan Adams, Secretary. The motion was passed with a unanimous vote.

The minutes from the October, 27, 2020 meeting were passed unanimously.

Town Administrator Joe Devine gave a report on issues affecting the HDC:

1. The budget of \$ 1,200. submitted at Town Meeting was approved covering hearing costs and membership in the Preservation Alliance.
2. Air-conditioning Units in Town Hall—The Capital Improvement Planning Committee thought it premature to install the “splits” before the new furnace. This project will thus come out of next year’s budget.
3. NEC is addressing the drainage/erosion issue at Community Park with a storm drain, catch basin, stabilizing rocks and seed in the area coming from their adjacent driveway.
4. Two maple trees (rotted) will be removed from the left front of Town Hall when Depot Hill Road is repaired this summer. They will be replaced.
5. Town Hall Remodel: A. The major meeting space has been moved to the Community Center. The current meeting room in Town Hall will become a smaller conference room. The wall of the main office will be moved creating a larger office area for building and assessing and a smaller conference room.
B The Historical Society will be placing a “circa” sign on the left front of Town Hall.
C. During construction of Depot Hill Road this summer, the sidewalk in front of Town Hall will be expanded to 5 feet in width (ADA compliant) toward the road.
D. Town Administrator added that Town Hall will be painted using the current colors.
6. Woodman Park changes will be made at the same time of Depot Hill Road construction. A brief summary of the proposal to move the WW II monument further into the park was presented by Susan. Bill suggested that the monument be lit. Further discussion will continue in the forthcoming hearing.

New Business

1. the importance of membership in the NH Preservation Alliance was discussed.
2. The Community Center sign needs re-lamination. Bob offered to contact Ian Johnson to replace the sign.
3. Construction in the Community Center: The BOS platform will be raised to accommodate the many wires for safety reasons. Sound proofing will be added to the walls. These are not permanent structural changes. Parking on the lawn at the Community Center has become a problem. Joe will contact the police to address this.

Next Meeting:

October 2021 will be our next meeting. Chairman Hustis will call any other meeting if required.

4:30 Lisa closed the regular meeting and opened the Public Hearing.

Woodman Park: Heidi Aucoin, representing the Henniker Beautification Alliance, gave a presentation on proposed changes for Woodman Park. The WWII monument would be moved further into the park, just south of the walkway from Town Hall, as illustrated in the plan. The driving issue is the safety of those visiting the memorial. Route 114 and Depot Hill Road are heavily used by fast moving traffic. The memorial now sits on a raised mound and is not safely traversed. In addition, Woodman Park is an underutilized space and could accommodate the memorial and room for benches for visitors to the monument. There is evidence that people do visit the memorial. Heidi explained that this work would be done by John Dwinnell, a volunteer and former Vietnam War veteran along with support from the Town as the work would coincide with the repair of Depot Hill Road. The American Legion is in support of this move and has given funds to clean the monument.

Ging Blanchard gave a history of Woodman Park which honored three Henniker boys who died in the Battan Death March. She also brought up the objection that this park is the Town Common, and while it should be beautified, nothing should be added. It should be open to the people. Peter remarked that it is not unusual to have memorials in the Town Commons in New Hampshire. There was a brief discussion on how much of the roadside of Woodman Park is owned by the State. The conclusion was that it is not an issue.

Bob moved and Bill seconded to close the hearing on Woodman Park.

Town Hall Changes: Chairman Hustis opened the hearing on building the wall to create a larger office and smaller conference room. Ging Blanchard hoped that the new wall would not enclose the historic post but be built against it so that it

remains visible. TA Devine took note of her suggestion.

Susan Adams explained the Historical Society's program for placing signs on historic buildings throughout town giving the dates that these buildings were built. Circa signs illustrate the history of the town and provide a sense of place.

Chairman Hustis closed the public hearing for changes to Town Hall and re-convened the regular meeting of The Historic District Commission.

Bob Pogano moved and Warren Mattiello seconded a motion to approve the changes to Town Hall. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Warren moved and Bob seconded a motion to approve the Woodman Park proposal as presented. Susan recused herself from voting since she is a member of the Beautification Alliance. The vote to relocate the monument was passed with 4 affirmative votes, 1 negative vote and 1 abstention.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Pogano and seconded by Bill McGraw. Chairman Hustis adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan S. Adams, Secretary