

**HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 3, 2022**

The Heritage Commission held its regular monthly meeting at Council Chambers, 37 Green Street, Concord, New Hampshire, on Thursday, March 3, 2022.

Attendees: Chair Richard Jaques, Councilor Jennifer Kretovic, Members Dr. Bryant Tolles Jr., Alternate Althea Barton, and Alternate Mike Dunn.

Absent: Carol Durgy Brooks and Jim Spain

Staff: Heather Shank, City Planner  
Lisa Fellows-Weaver, Administrative Specialist

**1. Call to Order and Seating of Alternates**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jaques at 4:34 p.m.

Councilor Kretovic made a motion to seat Alternate Members Barton and Dunn to the Commission for this meeting. Dr. Tolles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Dunn moved to approve the minutes of February 3, 2022, as written. Dr. Tolles seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**3. New Business**

There was no new business to discuss.

**4. Demolition Review Committee – Jim Spain**

In Mr. Spain's absence, Dr. Tolles stated that there has not been any new activity over the past month and there is nothing to update.

**5. Heritage Sign Program – Carol Brooks**

Ms. Brooks was not in attendance.

**6. Planning Board Update**

Ms. Shank stated that Phase 1 of the Code is under review by the City Solicitor. She added that she is planning to hold three workshop charettes for Phase 2; March 29 and 31. The charrettes will be held online and will discuss visioning for Fisherville Road neighborhoods one night and Concord Heights neighborhoods the next night. The afternoon session will be focused on stakeholders such as consultants, engineers, and surveyors. All sessions are open to the public. She will be sending out email invites to the Boards, Committees, and Commissions as well as other outreach methods.

**7. Council Update – Councilor Kretovic**

Councilor Kretovic stated that City Council held their priorities setting session. The Master Plan update was not added to the upcoming list; Council felt that it may delay the code update and the zoning should be completed first. However, Councilor Kretovic stated that a master plan historic preservation committee can make their own efforts to be proactive. She added that the proposed Demolition Delay Ordinance is scheduled for a public hearing at the March 14 City Council meeting. Rick Jaques is planning to attend.

**8. Old Business**

• **Gas Holder Building**

Ms. Barton provided an update on the continued work for the Gas Holder. She stated that emergency stabilization has begun on the inside. There is a plan for interviews to be conducted

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of the workers to get a sense of what it is like working in the building. She stated that no one is allowed to go in due to the hazardous conditions. She explained that the first phase cost is approximately \$500,000; shared by Liberty Utilities, an anonymous donor, and private contributions. The second part of the stabilization is near 2 million and at this time they are unsure as to where that funding will come from. She noted that there are entities trying to get national grants.

Ms. Barton suggested updating the Commission's website page relative to the gas holder progress.

- **Abbott Village - Heather Shank**

Nothing new to report; this item will be removed from the agenda at this time.

- **Demolition Delay Ordinance – Mike Dunn**

Councilor Kretovic stated that the proposal has been reviewed with only minor legal revisions.

- **Historic Photo Repository**

Councilor Kretovic stated that the repository has been approved by Council. She and Mr. Dunn continue to add more links and are still finalizing the repository.

- **Monuments & Granite Markers - Jim Spain**

Mr. Spain was not present.

#### 9. Any other business to come before the Commission

##### *West Street Ward House*

Ms. Barton stated that a few months ago she attended an RPAC meeting where Jay Burgess, Public Properties Superintendent, had mentioned work being done on the West Street Ward House. He had referenced slate roofs on the building and explained that the City is not sure if the building will remain as City property with continued repairs and maintenance done or if it will be left as is. She explained that she is familiar with contractors that do this type of work and familiar with the results. She encouraged the Committee to consider preservation for the building as well.

##### *American Rescue Plan Act Resources (ARPA)*

Ms. Barton stated that she came across a program called Build Back Springfield, where the City received ARPA funds and were able to use for the rehabilitation of historic buildings. She noted that there are many significant large buildings in Springfield and some have been damaged during recent hurricanes. She asked if Concord could do something like this the this Commission involved in directing and/or managing the funds. Councilor Kretovic stated that the City has previously received ARPA funds, which have been allocated.

Ms. Shank read RSA 974:44-b which is specific to establishing heritage funds. Discussion ensued as to the process of establishing a trust.

Ms. Barton offered to write a report for Council to let them know the Commission has an interest in creating a heritage fund.

##### *Abbott Review and Sewalls Falls*

It was noted that there is a historic house, approximately from the 1700's, at the entrance of the Abbott Road and Sewalls Falls proposed development. The house is in disrepair and should be coming before the Demolition Review Committee.

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**10. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Dr. Tolles made a motion to adjourn at 5:28 p.m. Mr. Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lisa Fellows-Weaver  
Administrative Specialist