



# Milford Heritage Commission

Town Hall

1 Union Square

Milford NH 03055

## Minutes March 2023

Meeting Date: March 8, 2023, 7:00pm, conducted in the Town Hall Banquet Room

### Participating:

David Palance, Chairman	Paul Dargie, BoS Representative
Chris Thompson, Member	Paul Liamos, Citizen
Sara Weyant-Bunn, Member	David Alcox, Citizen
Katherine Kokko, Alternate, voting	Michael Thornton, Citizen
Sarah Brown, Member	

### Review of Minutes:

The January minutes were reviewed with one minor edit and voted into record.

### New Business

**Selection of Nominations for the Heritage Commission** – Both Chris T. and David P. have terms expiring and agreed to accept nominations to continue. Herb Adams and Chuck Worcester did not choose to continue. Both Paul Liamos and David Alcox presented their request to join the commission, Paul L. selected the full member status and David A. the alternate position. The commission voted to accept unanimously. David P. will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen to vote on our selection prior to the new term starting on April 1, 2023. Paul D. invited the new nominees to attend the BoS meeting on March 27 beginning at 5:30 for a personal introduction.

**Downtown Pedestrian and Vehicular Improvements Project** – David P. made the recommendation for the commission members to participate or at least monitor the actions of the subcommittee for this improvement project.

**Bales School Restoration Project** – Sarah B. presented the results of the recent public information session prior to the town vote on the 2.7 M bond for renovation warrant article. Discussion on the historical designation, asbestos abatement completion of two more floors and the plans to provide resources for Project Drive and the SAU administration offices. Katherine brought up the availability of grants available from the NH Preservation Alliance for \$ 20M for community center projects. The details of eligibility were discussed and found to be applicable. The deadline for the application is April 21. Seeing the short turn around David P. volunteered to approach Ms. Christi Michaud and Judi Zaino with this information. Katherine suggested two other grant opportunities will be available: the 1772 Foundation and the Moose Plate grants.

<https://www.1772foundation.org/grants> and <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr/grants/moose/> websites were provided by Sarah as references.

**Right to Know training, April 27, 2023 in the Town Hall Auditorium at 5:00** – David P. encouraged all members to take part of this important training. The request for committee leaders was made by Tina Philbrick. David P. petitioned for all members to attend the seminar. Sarah and Katherine asked for reservations. David P. said that he will ask for two more reservations for others to join after consideration by individuals.

### Old Business

**Federal Hill Fire Tower** – The group reviewed the report of the trial balloon and discussed it and the reaction of the BoS. We voted to say that there was a visible heritage impact however, the commission believes it does not warrant further action.

**Laurel Schoolhouse (7 Shepard Street)** – Sarah presented a financial report on our fund raising and the expenditures to date. Katherine notified the group that there is still an invoice pending for the remainder of the storm window replacement. Katherine reported on our fund-raising efforts and grant status, we are holding off on the railing purchase to secure cash for matching, Keyes provided a pledge of support for the 1772 Grant match. The application is in to the foundation with an expected timeline of early summer for an announcement and the work needed to be completed by the end of the year. A cyclical maintenance plan must be submitted within this same period. The commission discussed reactivating the fund-raising effort with the focus off of the bandstand until the warrant article is decided. We will update the MOA with the Historical Society to receive payment other than checks and the schoolhouse will be included on the QR tour. The needs assessment is in draft form, Katherine will follow-up with Reagan (The Preservation Co) to complete the report.

**Bandstand – Seven To Save** - Sarah presented a financial report on our fund raising and the expenditures to date. Chris presented a check from the Historical Society for \$117.19 including a correction and the Paypal donations to date. David P. will submit to the town financial department with a letter of request to the BoS to approve. New donations that were included came from Ms. Katheryn Ferguson, Sandra Murphy and Fischer Integration Co. Thank you notes were sent for all the Paypal donations by Chris. David P. will check to see if letters went out to donations that went directly to the town by check.

**Black Heritage Trial Marker-** David P. reported on the work of a subcommittee, meeting to discuss the event plans and the details of erecting the granite marker at Bicentennial Park. We are waiting for the snow to subside before reviewing and selecting a granite marker stone donated. The Plaque is on order and we received an invoice for our portion amounting to \$1,000. This will be presented to the BoS with an updated slide presentation of our budget and progress. David Nelson of the Historical Society has taken on a very active role in the event plans. The Banquet Hall and the Auditorium are reserved. The unveiling will be done by a high school student as selected by an essay contest. The winner will also receive a cash prize and extra credit.

**Date of Next Meeting:** April 12, 2023

**Call to Adjourn:** 8:26 PM