

**HERITAGE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING  
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**

**Held on October 13, 2020**

minutes approved on November-10-2020

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Heritage Commission held a remote meeting pursuant to Governor Sununu's Order #12 related to public meetings. The Litchfield Heritage Commission held a remote meeting via Webex on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Karl Franck – Chairman, Kimberly Queenan - Vice-Chairman, Rich Lascelles – Selectmen's Rep., Steven Calawa.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Harry Menzigian.

**ALSO PRESENT:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Karl Franck called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**NOTE: Regarding this meeting's 2 Motion counts:**

Start of meeting: Karl F., Kim Q., and Steven C. (3 present).

Agenda Item 5b: Rich L. joined meeting. (4 present).

**AGENDA ITEMS:**

**1. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

Steven C. made a MOTION to approve the September-8-2020 Meeting Minutes.

It was seconded by Kim Q. **Motion passes (3,0,0).**

**2. Public Input:** None

**3. Requests from members to add or delete Agenda Items:** None

**4. New Demolition Applications:** None

## 5. Continuing Discussion of Previous Business:

### a. Demolition Request at 146 Page Road, Litchfield, NH.

- Photos were taken of the property.
- This item is closed.

### b. Old Ferry Site – Rt 3A, Litchfield, NH.

- Steven C. stated that the Conservation Commission only wants bittersweet vines cut back on this site, and that the rest of the area toward the church should be left alone so that it is not damaged.
- Steven C. stated that he saw a car with Connecticut license plates using a scanner at this site. He explained to them that New Hampshire law states that anything unearthed belongs to the Town of Litchfield and the State of New Hampshire. He then said they left nicely.
  - Karl F. suggested we should add a sign stating “No Scanning” at the site.
  - Steven C. said that Jayson Brennan was thinking of adding signs that say “Stop. No going beyond this point” and “Park Across the Street.”
  - Karl F. suggested the police should be called.
  - Steven C. believed Troy Brown, the Town Administrator, told the police that no scanning was allowed at this site.
    - Steven C. will follow-up with Troy Brown.

### c. Demolition Request at 16 Colby Road, Litchfield, NH.

No changes since last meeting. Current status is:

- Photos already taken of the property.
- The owner has not demolished the property yet.
- Owners have 6 months to complete demolition, based on the demolition permit approval date.

## 6. Other Business:

### a. Eagle Scout project on the Litchfield Historical Society grounds:

- Per Steven C., the scout is not 100% sure of their project yet, but they are exploring:
  - 1) adding a lighting system for the existing flags (maybe solar), or
  - 2) adding a ring of shrubbery around the flag area (past issues were that this area is public property and no-one wants to take care of it), or
  - 3) adding a garden around the Litchfield Historical Society sign, or
  - 4) adding a new pole for the new United States Space Force branch.

- b. Dar-Col Stables (39 acres) was just sold to a developer.**
- c. New Vineyard being established at 288 Charles Bancroft Highway.**
  - Kim Q. described her husband's initial high-level plans of opening Tall Glass Vineyards on this property. They are still preparing for the Planning Board.
- d. Litchfield Historical Society members visited Merrimack side of the River.**
  - Steven C. discussed that the Merrimack Historical Society (MHS) invited Litchfield Historical Society (LHS) members to visit the Merrimack side of the river. Steven C. and Caroline Lambert from LHS met with members of the MHS in Merrimack.

Steven and Caroline did not believe that the location the MHS said was the Merrimack ferry site made sense, since they (MHS members) said it was way down the river, south of Rich L.'s house.

Steven C. stated:

- The new MHS president also did not think it was the correct location.
  - The ferry, which looked like a raft, was pulled. It had to be located at a shorter route between the two sides of the river.
  - Five acres of then riverfront is now gone.
  - More research is needed. The ferry might have pulled up near Passaconaway Golf Course. Maps and paintings show a road that can be seen across the ferry landing site. It was 40 rods (1 rod = 16.5ft, 40 rods = 660 ft). Forty rods lost over the years, is a lot of land lost. Some of what you see in the painting of Merrimack is really Litchfield.
  - Florence Center, was a past Litchfield Town Librarian, and great aunt of Caroline Lambert and Margaret Parent. Florence had stated that she walked to the train stop, to go from Merrimack to Manchester. Florence said that at the Merrimack side of the river, she would ring a bell, and that Isaac Center would hear bell and he would take her back across the river (to Litchfield), and she would then walk down to the Litchfield's Old Town Hall.
- Steven C. said that the final year of Thornton's Ferry was 1899, and that Reed's Ferry had already stopped. He explained that one spring, the river was high and they cut the ferry loose, and it went down the river.
  - Steven C. mentioned that the land was bequeathed on Merrimack side to have a Riverfront Park, similar to Litchfield. Merrimack is trying to keep it as natural as it can be kept. Kids ATVs are tearing down the wetlands. Hopefully these fragile historic site riverbanks can be closely monitored.
  - Steven C. concluded, by saying that a NH State archeologist said that moving gravel is falling into the river. He said that the NH State archeologist(s) will be here in the Fall to look for more foundations on-site,

to see if there are more than those that we know of. They (NH archeologists) know our side in Litchfield is fragile, sandy, and more banks could disappear. Heavy equipment operators on-site in the past, that were counting cotton tail rabbits, said that the bank was shaky.

- Rich L. asked Steven C. if his house (Rich L's) was Matthew Thornton's daughter's house. Steven C. said no -- that Matthew Thornton bought land, because of the ferry site. He said Matthew Thornton's name is on the deed because he bought additional land near the ferry.

Steven C. made a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Rich L. **Motion carries (4,0,0).**  
Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
Kimberly Queenan