

**HERITAGE COMMISSION PUBLIC MEETING
TOWN OF LITCHFIELD**

Held on September 8, 2020

minutes approved on October-13-2020

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, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karl Franck – Chairman, Kimberly Queenan - Vice-Chairman, Steven Calawa, Harry Menzigan.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rich Lascelles – Selectmen's Rep.

ALSO PRESENT: Marion Colby.

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

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. No Heritage Commission meeting was held on August-11-2020.

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Steven C. made a motion to approve the July-14-2020 Meeting Minutes. It was seconded by Kim Q. **Motion passes (3,0,1).**

3. Public Input: None

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

5. New Demolition Applications: None

6. New Business:

a. Old Ferry Site, Litchfield, NH.

- Steven C. discussed the area where the new “Old Ferry Site” sign was placed. He is concerned that people are turning their cars around near the sign, or that they are driving their cars right down to the river, putting the historic conservation site at risk. He wanted to discuss potential options of keeping cars off of the historic site area.

Ideas the Heritage Commission explored were:

1. Place granite posts on either side of the sign, so people know where the entrance to the historic site area is.
 2. Place flower boxes around the sign post.
→ Who will maintain the flower boxes?
 3. Place 4 short granite posts with chains along Rt. 3A (the river’s side) OR place boulders along Rt. 3A (the river’s side, will look more open), to keep cars from getting too close to the historic site area.
→ Who will mow and weed whack the area? Jayson Brennen currently cuts the grass. He would have to be asked if it could be weed whacked also.
 4. Place a sign at base of the new “Old Ferry Site” sign, describing rules to visitors
- Steven C. commented that this area is to be preserved, and this site is not for frivolity.
 - Marion C. commented, that after we (the Litchfield Historical Society) talked to the State of NH about this area, we need to discourage cars from being on the site, because the soil and embankment is not solid.
 - Steven C. added to Marion’s comment, that the State of NH said that:
 - a) they want nothing brought in or taken out of that historic area,
 - b) It is currently an unstable piece of land there (historic site area to the embankment of the river), and
 - c) the State wants nothing disturbed.

More ideas the Heritage Commission explored were:

5. Place “No Driving” signs in the area.
6. Move Info-Kiosk to a more visible location near the entrance.
7. Place Trail Entrance/Hiker-Walking sign in the area.
8. Place “No Vehicles Allowed” signs in the area.

9. Place "Parking Across the Road" or "Parking Allowed on Edge of Road" signs in the area.
 - ➔ The Heritage Commission discussed that Rt. 3A is a State road, and that any recommendations will have to adhere to State requirements.
- Harry M., who is also a Conservation Commission member, reminded the group that the Conservation Commission bought the property from the Karl F. family, which is part of the historic site. Steven C. added that the Conservation Commission bought it because they wanted to buy riverfront property.
- Marion C. noted that the Town of Merrimack is having a similar issue with their riverbank, via ATV usage.
- Discussed was that it would be nice to have a little map of the historic area for visitors, showing where the house, barn, Ferry Rd., and muster grounds were located.
- Steven C. commented that Joan McKibben was against fencing, and that we need to keep her updated. He said Joan wanted to connect the Bike Trail from Old Stage Road to Albuquerque Ave, allowing access to the Rt. 3A riverfront.

7. Continuing Discussion of Previous Business:

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

Action taken since the last the HC Meeting:

- None.

Discussions during this HC Meeting:

- Steven C. stated the construction project is going slower than expected.

Reminders:

- Photos have NOT yet been taken of the property.
- Owners agreed to allow photos to be taken after they have cleaned up the property and emptied out the house.

b. Demolition Request at 16 Colby Road, Litchfield, NH.

Action taken since the last the HC Meeting:

- None.

Discussions during this HC Meeting:

- Steven C. stated that the owner has not demolished the property yet.

Reminders:

- Photos have already been taken of the property.
- Owners have 6 months to complete demolition, based on the demolition permit approval date.

8. Other Business:

- a. Karl F. asked if Marion C. would like to be invited to the monthly meetings. Marion C. stated that Kim Q. would let her know when the meetings are.

Steven C. makes a MOTION to adjourn, seconded by Harry M. **Motion carries (4,0,0).**
Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Kimberly Queenan