

HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2006

Members present: M.Crisler; K. Normington; C.Pynn; B.Talbott; M.Stoltz
Alternate: N.Kopec; excused, P.Schena
Mr. Bob Coole sat in as a member of the public

- June 28 minutes: Griffin Park: for clarification, amended to read 20 parking spots on west side of park. Motion to accept as amended by M.Crisler, 2nd by B.Talbott. Motion carried 5-0

Historic District Commission

- **Presbyterian Church:** Pastor Jim Stewart and church member Debbie MacKenzie attended to voice concerns regarding the possibility of allowing an access road in the Historic District as a connection to the proposed Village Center district. Members of the Commission explained that the only reason for *considering* this was to prevent the historic Fellows House from being demolished. The pound would be disturbed but would be moved to a different location within the district. Pastor Stewart stated that the church had made an offer to the developer in December 2004 to sell a piece of land to him for use as an access road. They would like their offer to be revisited. The Commission feels the best action the church could take would be to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting when the access road is on the agenda. Members of the Commission will also be attending. M.Crisler stated that the BOS agenda is generally set by the Wednesday of the previous week. It is posted on the town website.
- **Windham Depot Historic District:** M. Crisler will schedule a meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss acquisition of the caboose as discussed at the June meeting. Also, the possible purchase of an original station agent stove (\$375). This will be a joint meeting between the HDC/Rail-Trail Committee and the Board of Selectmen. M.Crisler will schedule.

CIP: memo received from Planning and Development regarding CIP requests for year 2007 as well as long term capital requests. The Commission requests consideration be given to the Bartley House (2007) and Haseltine House long term. M.Crisler took forms for Dana to work on.

Heritage Commission:

- **Common Man Restaurant:** owner Alex Ray, and Karl Dubay who is working on the design for the new restaurant, attended to discuss plans to move and reopen the C-Man Restaurant. The older of the two historic Armstrong houses on the Common Man property is directly in the path of the Rt 93 project. He proposes to move that house down further on Range Road and possibly incorporate it into the new restaurant setting. Since this cannot be accomplished until the present Rt 93 bridge is removed, the house may have to be moved to the side on skids. The present barn/restaurant is not considered historic. Mr.Ray has purchased property in the area of the "Woof Woof" business. He will preserve the driveway as it is part of the original Range Road. Because this is in the area of the "Gateway District", creativity in building is allowed. He envisions several small disconnected buildings housing small businesses such as a bakery or a wine/cheese shop, and possibly a very small inn. He would like it to be a destination for an outing, not

just a place to eat. The new C-Man restaurant will likely be built in barn form. He will be meeting with the Planning Board possibly in conjunction with the DOT. The goal is to keep everyone informed. The Victorian style (white) Armstrong house may be acquired by the town and may possibly be kept in its present location.

- **Road Names:** *Johnny Hill Estates* developer requests that Bennington Road be allowed as a continuation of an existing road. The Commission agrees to this. The name “Jamestown” has been suggested by the developer as a new road name. Since this name has no connection with Windham, the Commission feels it is not suitable and offers two other possibilities.
 1. Mt. Ephraim is referenced in Morrison’s *History of Windham* . It is also on the Town Historic Resource List. Mt. Ephraim literally means wooded hills. It was a notable elevation in that area of town.
 2. Johnny Hill Road would also be appropriate if the development were called by a different name. The Commission suggested the use of this name a number of years ago.

Old business: no further word from Planning Dept. regarding Demolition Delay Ordinance
Announcement: From NHDHR regarding formation of an e-mail forum whereby members of Historic District and Heritage Commissions can communicate concerns, ideas and solutions with one another.

Request from Planning and Development that HDC minutes be sent to them.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted in draft form

Carol Pynn
Chairman, Windham Historic District Commission