

Historic Sites Subcommittee
(a work committee of the Hyde Park Planning Commission)

MINUTES

Tuesday, September 2, 2014 – 5:00 PM
344 Route 15 West, Municipal Offices

Present: Jim Heath, Monica Heath, Carolyn Jones, and Ron Rodjenski

1. Welcome
2. Hyde Park Historical Society

Carolyn explained that the society membership is low, maybe 5 regular members, and they have turned over maintenance of the Gihon Valley Grange Hall to the Selectboard. Past work completed by the Society at the Grange Hall included ADA bathroom on the lower level, renovations to the stage and hallway. Storage of artifacts is not possible at the grange until it has a secure room with alarms. Future major building projects identified by the Society are repairs to the rounded plaster ceiling, roof repairs, drainage around foundation, and security upgrades to allow storage of artifacts. There is a need for an easement from the parcel to the north for the new fire escape stairs and the deed to the property was not transferred at the time the Grange dissolved, leaving ownership of the property in question. Ron reported that Jim Mahoney has agreed to draft a deed to the Town from the State Grange but will not assist on the easement deed. The Society would like to see the first floor rented. The Society is planning on organizing annual programs but no longer work on construction at the Grange. The programs will be focused on schools and recording personal histories of town residents related to historic buildings and community activities; generally following the topics in the published town history. Because the group will continue to hold one or two events each year, Carolyn would like the group appointed as a town committee to benefit from town insurance coverage for their public events and retain the current relationship with the town treasurer. Jim Heath recommended that the group could organize as a 501(c)3 and once recognized, the work to maintain the IRS designation is not difficult, potentially opening up grant sources not available to the municipality. The State Fire Marshall has a report on the grange hall which should be obtained or updated for future planning of any improvements. The building's capacity was believed to be no more than 100 people at one time.

3. Subcommittee Goals

The subcommittee discussed setting three goals to work on:

- a. Clear up the deed and easement issues
- b. Update the 1981 Historic Sites Inventory; photos and 911 numbers
- c. Identify possible storage and display places for artifacts; including being aware of artifacts that might be lost or sold and could be acquired by the town. Carolyn mentioned the vault at the current Planned Parenthood building on Main St as one possible secure location for artifacts until a permanent location is established.

4. Adjourn – 6:00 PM

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, October 7, 2014 at 5:00 PM