

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

MINUTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Present: Kevin Fitzgerald, Jim Heath, Monica Heath, and Duncan Tingle
Absent: None
Guests: None
Staff: Ron Rodjenski

1. Welcome
2. UVM Interns for Summer Inventory – Two applications received and one person withdrew for another internship. Michelle Hudson Johnstone is interested and Ron will confirm her interest on Thursday. The Committee felt that due to the timing of summer coming up, it would be great if Michelle could get started. If Michelle is interested, then she could work with Preservation Trust of Vermont on current historic sites assessment software or apps and then report to the committee on the status of her work at the June 2 committee meeting. The committee agreed that first updating the Main Street properties in the 1992 Historic Sites Survey and adding any additional information on the properties would be a good place to start. Ron suggested that if a software program could be utilized right from the beginning that the town-wide assessment should go quicker and possibly be done by the intern this summer. Duncan stated that the Village Improvement Association has documents and photos that could be added to the inventory.
3. Main Street Churches
Duncan reported that he spoke with Herman Fiess and his church, the Second Congregational Church at the corner of Main and Prospect, decided to begin a capital campaign to preserve the tower at the church, rather than remove the tower. The church has spoken with most community groups about the need for repairs and they hope to have some community support in preserving the building. Duncan stated that he expects to be kept up to date on the capital campaign by Herman and will then keep the committee informed.
4. Barns – Kevin will contact Eric Gilbertson to see if he is interested in updating the Joneslan farm historic barn assessment after July 1st. Ron suggested that before the barns are called the “Oldest Barn in Hyde Park” that we ask the community for any other candidates for that title. Jim Heath will ask the newspaper if they could donate some space to ask the question “Do you own the oldest barn in Hyde Park?” and then the committee will review the information. In addition to that outreach, the committee has access to funds after July 1 to assess the Joneslan barns to make sure they are in a good condition to not need immediate repairs. Once the ad is in the newspaper, Ron will repost on Front Porch Forum.
5. Adjourn –

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at 5:00 PM