

**Hampton Heritage Commission**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes 6/2/2022**

Call to order 7:02 P.M.

Salute to flag was conducted by Chairwoman Ann Carnaby.

Commissioners Present:

Ann Carnaby

Christine Bushway

Jim Metcalf

Erica DeVries

Members of the Public Present:

Betty Moore (liaison with Hampton Historical Society)

John Stewart

Meeting was held in the Selectmen's Meeting Room of Hampton Town Hall.

Endorsement of new Commissioner and Alternates

Chairwoman Carnaby presented letters from Katherine Harake and Nichole Duggan indicating a wish to join the Commission (Ms. Duggan as a commissioner, Ms. Harake as an alternate). The letters were circulated; and after a brief discussion, Commissioner Bushway moved the question to endorse both individuals. Commissioner DeVries seconded. The vote was unanimous.

As an aside, Commissioner Metcalf asked about the Commission contact list being assembled by the Chair. The Chair indicated it would be distributed when the new commissioners/alternates were added.

Approval of May 12, 2022 Minutes

Commissioner Metcalf moved that the draft minutes be accepted. Commissioner Bushway seconded. The vote to accept was unanimous.

House Marker Program update

Commissioner Bushway reported that despite numerous contacts with local craftsman as alternatives to the previous source for the markers (maker now deceased), none was willing to engage given the small number of markers expected each year. Commissioner Metcalf confirmed that he had not yet severed ties with the New Jersey vendor identified by the previous vendor's family as having taken over the business, so that was still an option. Commissioner Carnaby introduced Mr. John Stewart as a craftsman woodworker who might be willing to take on the job. Mr. Stewart showed examples of his work, and a consensus was reached to ask Mr. Stewart for a marker sample. Commissioner Metcalf suggested that a marker order that was made but not fulfilled by the previous vendor be used as the "test".

Commissioner Metcalf agreed to provide the information from that order to Mr. Stewart, and he agreed to present the sample at the next (July 7<sup>th</sup>) Commission meeting.

### Blacksmith Shop Update

Commissioner DeVries led an extensive discussion of the state of the historical Blacksmith Shop on Barbour Road and any plans for its future. Salient points were as follows:

1. The condition of the Shop is not good. Funds voted in the past by the Town for stabilization (let alone restoration) are known to be inadequate. Funds required might well be in the range of \$100K to \$200K.
2. DPW (Jennifer Hale) provided information regarding an inspection from 2018-19 that was conducted with the assistance of Powell Builders. A number of “steps” were identified to remedy deficiencies (weak floor, windows, sills, roof, foundation, etc.). The inspection (costing \$2080) was Step 1. The March 2020 estimate for a partial Step 2 was \$57K. Available funds at that time were in the range of \$20K. No work was done.
3. There is at least one known artifact associated with the Blacksmith Shop; an anvil is in the custody of DPW.
4. It was noted that in the case of the Grist Mill complex (mill building, dam, and Mill Pond) funds were secured via warrant article to rehabilitate the dam rather than to decommission it. The total funds secured from the Town for rehabilitation amounted to \$300K more than those needed for simple decommissioning (the lease expensive option to comply with a Dam Bureau order). However, it was also noted that the Grist mill complex is much more visible and iconic than the Blacksmith Shop.
5. It was agreed by consensus that some creative effort would be necessary to save the Blacksmith Shop. It will not be easy. A vision of its role in the Town is needed.

### Kiosk Template for NHDOT

It was pointed out that while the Commission had voted at its last meeting that Commissioner Metcalf should draft a letter for the Chair to sign providing the Hampton Historical Society’s (HHS’s) interpretive sign template to NHDOT for their use at the Hampton Bridge site, that draft letter would be premature until permission to share the HHS template was obtained from the HHS Board. The HHS president indicated (via communication with the Chair and via the HHS liaison with the Commission) that the permission question would be voted on at the next HHS Board meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Thus, there was consensus that the matter should be held in abeyance until such time as permission is obtained. At that point, if HHS permission is given, the drafting and sending of the already voted-upon letter could proceed.

### Adjournment

Commissioner Metcalf motioned for adjournment at 8:42 PM. Commissioner Bushway seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to adjourn.