

HDC MINUTES

5/14/13

HISTORIC INVENTORY/CLG GRANT continued:

This year, Mr. Dingman has applied to get funding to underwrite the Historic District section of the Master Plan. He explained that there are only 13 or 14 towns with CLG status and, therefore, eligible for the grants. Mr. Dingman added that the Planning Board (which he is a member of also) is working on a public survey for the updating of the Master Plan. They are working with Lakes Region Planning Commission on it.

Ms. Heaney stated that the fellow working on our inventory is from Syracuse, NY. She sent out 36 requests and only got back two responses. The other response was from Rhode Island. Mr. Dingman continued by saying that the inventory is to go out Summer Street, especially documenting the Old Town Hall as well as the Old Fire Station.

Mr. Dingman stated that the Historic District has been in existence since 2005 with a goal of keeping the district as simple as possible. We have guidance for those properties on line. Ms. Heaney added that we give some level of oversight and acquired the CLG Status for additional funding. Central Square is on the National Register. Mr. Dingman stated that the Master Plan Historic Section is a guide. Ms. Heaney continued by saying that they started with one cohesive area. Mr. Dingman added that public opinion has been to lean to historic preservation. We need more public education. Ms. Gordon stated that, in the beginning, we had a lot of hearings but the guidelines eased that as well as the fact that the economy slowed. Mr. Dingman mentioned one building in the Square that dates back to 1917 that needs documenting. He added that we are getting better at getting funds for this area. We seem to lose one structure every 6 months.

Ms. Cote stated that the Selectmen are faced with what to do with the Old Town Hall. They are talking about reviving the study committee again. A discussion followed about this building and it was mentioned that it is included in the Planning Board survey. Ms. Cote also mentioned an old map that she received from Alan Barnard that she feels she should pass on to this Commission. She also stated that they are trying to tie the Northern Pass with historic properties that it would run through. They would like to see Bristol involved as the Pass is slated to come over Peaked Hill. It has to do with Section 106 and Mr. Dingman stated that the NH Preservation of Historic Resources (NPHR) has a specialist of Section 106 on staff.

Mr. Dingman stated that, if the study committee gets together again, he would like to be involved. He added that some things can be done with Federal and State funds. Ms. Cote felt that they would like to include more than just the committee; she will add Mr. Dingman to the list. Mr. Dingman feels that we need to get the Old Town Hall on the National Register.

Ms. Gordon asked about the completion of the Downtown Square project and Ms. Cote answered that it is slated to be complete before July 4th except for the final paving. With no other business, S. Heaney made a motion, second by D. Gordon to adjourn at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Laferriere, recording secretary