

Historic Preservation Commission
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 14, 2020 – 4:00 PM

Workshop & Special Meeting

Location: Rendezvous Point Burying Ground (323 Ferry Road, Map 12 Lot 45)

Present: Chair Kelley Archer, Vice Chair Steve Ryan, Robert Biggs, Diana Huot, Ernest Lowell, Andrew Bracy (*arrived 4:14PM*)

Excused: Julia May; Joe Gunn, Council Liaison

Also Present: Isabelle Oechsle, Planning & Economic Development Associate; members of the public

1. Site Walk of Rendezvous Point Burying Ground: Chair Kelley Archer walked the Commission through the burying ground and explained the work that the Bonefinder (Topographix) had completed. She also showed the City's right of passage, as shown on the survey completed by Dow & Coulombe. There was a suggestion by a member of the public (Susan Biggs) that the clearing of the right of passage would make a great Eagle Scout project. The Commission discussed the potential of adding a fence around the boundary of Rendezvous Point. It was ultimately decided that the City should wait to make any significant changes to the site until after the nomination to the National Register of Historic Places has occurred, emphasizing that the historic integrity of the site must remain intact.
2. Call to Order: Chair Kelley Archer called the special meeting to order at 4:36PM and stated those present for the record.
3. Minutes of Previous Meetings: September 23, 2020: **Diana Huot moved to waive the reading of the previous minutes. Steve Ryan seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Andrew Bracy moved to accept the minutes of September 23, 2020 as presented. Diana Huot seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.**
4. New Business:
 - a. Rendezvous Point Burying Ground: Isabelle Oechsle presented the draft Request For Proposals for a Qualified Historian to assist the Commission in nominating Rendezvous Point to the National Register. The Qualified Historian will be 60% funded through a CLG grant that the Commission received, with the remaining 40% being covered by the Commission. The RFP will be released on October 16, 2020 with a public bid opening to be held on November 13, 2020 at 11AM. Without objection, the Commission authorized staff to release the RFP.

5. Old Business
 - a. 90 Temple Street: Isabelle Oechsle provided update on this item. The City Council authorized the sale of 90 Temple Street to Biddeford Housing Authority in the amount of \$1,000. City staff is currently working through contract negotiations with BHA, with a closing to be held later this fall.
6. Planning & Economic Development Department Updates: Bob Hamblen has returned to the City to assume the role of City Planner, though Isabelle will continue to be the staff liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission.
7. Adjournment: Adjourned without objection at 5:29PM.