

**RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, August 3, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**  
**Rye Town Hall**

**Commission Present:** *Acting-Chair Gail Hughes, Peter White, Frank Lagana, Selectman Bill Epperson, and Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn*

**Members Not Present:** *Alex Herlihy, David Choate, Bev Giblin, Tim Durkin, and Mae Bradshaw*

**I. Call to Order**

Acting Chair Hughes called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. and seated Elizabeth Sanborn for the meeting.

**II. Business**

- **Rye Day – report of prep for table Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>**

Alternate Sanborn updated the Commission on what is being planned for the Heritage Commission's booth at Rye Day, which they are sharing with Rye Advocates. Rye Day is being held on August 19<sup>th</sup>. Setup will start at 10:00 a.m. Alex Herlihy, David Choate, and Alex Herlihy will be setting up the booth.

Items for booth setup:

- *Alex* – card table, paperweights,
  - *Elizabeth* – 6' table, folding chairs, tablecloths, umbrella
  - *David* – tripods for posters
  - *Gail* – Town Hall merchandise: hats, totes, umbrellas
  - *Peter* – cash box, 100 copies of handout about Rye Heritage Commission signage in town
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- **Artifacts on Table** – Listing of pre-1901 houses by address; Poster of the Rye Advocates website; comprehensive binder which includes all Stroll Magazine articles, printout of Town Hall history, and history of Rye Heritage Commission projects (house plaques, graveyards, fundraisers)
  - Anyone manning the table should know the history of the Rye Heritage Commission and what makes it different from the Historical Society. Information should also be known about the Town Hall and National Registry, and the gazebo project (deadline for a

decision by the Commission is September 7<sup>th</sup>). Members should also be able to speak about the oversight of the Pulpit Rock Tower.

- Merchandise for sale will be sold for \$10 in order to move the product.

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to sell the merchandise for \$10 at Rye Day. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

The booth will be run by the members during the following times:

- **11:00 – 12:00** – *Elizabeth Sanborn*
- **12:00 – 1:00** – *Alex Herlihy*
- **1:00 – 2:00** – *Gail Hughes*
- **2:00 – 3:00** – *Peter White*
- **3:00 – 4:00** – *David Choate*
- **4:00 – 5:00** – *Frank Lagana*

Breakdown of the booth will be done by Elizabeth, Frank, and David.

- **Inventory of RHC items for sale**  
542 hats, 15 umbrellas, 52 bags
- **Gazebo – local carpenter working on estimate**

Alternate Sanborn reported that Alex Herlihy is getting an estimate for the restoration of the gazebo, which will be ready for the Commission's next meeting for discussion.

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to take an up or down vote on the gazebo project on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Gail Hughes.**

There was some discussion about pushing the date to October to give time for any questions about the bid to be answered. It was agreed to extend the date to the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion modified:

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to take an up or down vote on the gazebo project by the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, with the assumption that the estimate will be in hand by the September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting for discussion. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

- **Pulpit Rock Tower**  
*There will be an update at the September meeting.*

The Commission discussed ideas for what can be said on Rye Day about the Heritage Commission's work in relation to the Pulpit Rock Tower. It was agreed that the Commission should probably not talk about the Tower at this time, as more information is needed about the Commission's role if they were to take responsibility of the property. Selectman Epperson will follow up with Patricia Weathersby.

- **Rye Advocates report**

Member Sanborn reported that the Rye Advocates now has an official website. Rye Advocates will be sharing the booth with the Heritage Commission at Rye Day. The people manning the booth will understand the workshops that Advocates has done on how to date your old home.

- **Demo Review Committee report**

Member Sanborn noted that the Demolition Review Committee looked at 22 Pioneer Road. It was agreed that the structure wasn't historically significant or architecturally important. The property owners are tearing down the structure and rebuilding a commercial office within the same footprint. It's felt that what will be built will be an improvement over what is currently on the property.

- **RHC budget for next year**

Member White noted that the budget is usually prepared around the October timeframe. The Heritage Commission will probably go back with the same budget that they've had, which has been accepted for a decade. He pointed out that the Commission needs to do a mailer/flyer for 2023 by the end of the year, in order to take advantage of the budget numbers. He, Gail, and Alex had a discussion about solving the gazebo situation before going out for money, as it might look like the Commission doesn't know how to use the money they have. He noted that there's \$4,600 that was raised for the gazebo and \$2,000 from the Commission's unrestricted fund balance, which is earmarked for the project.

Selectman Epperson asked if it would be acceptable to use the money on cleaning up the little graveyards in town.

It was noted that the Commission would have to go back to the donors to ask permission to reallocate the money.

Member White pointed out they have \$6,600 for the gazebo and \$9,000 in unrestricted funds. If the gazebo project needs a few thousand more to get the job done, he would in favor of using the additional funds. However, he agrees that the Commission should figure out what they are doing with the gazebo before doing a mailer for more money.

- **Timberline Sign House Plaques Invoice Approval**

**Motion by Bill Epperson to pay the Timberline Sign house plaque invoice, not to exceed \$100. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.**

- **Alternates for RHC**

The Commission discussed ways to recruit new members for the open alternate seats.

### **III. Other Business**

- Rye400 sign ceremony is being held at the Library Common on Friday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.
- Next Heritage Commission meeting scheduled for September 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:30 p.m., Town Hall

### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to adjourn at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Bill Epperson. All in favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dyana F. Ledger