

Minutes
Culture, History and Governance (CHuG)
Sub-Committee
March 5, 2008

Present:

COG: Rita Walsh, Patti Kelleher

CHuG: Susan Brooks, Nancy Henderson, Jack MacLean, Karen Keane, Harriet Todd, Bill Stason, Peter Sugar

The meeting was devoted to a discussion about historic assets and the upcoming working paper from COG. We discussed the following:

- The working paper will address: goals and also a do-nothing analysis. It will attempt to define potential threats which may affect our historic resources/assets. It will also look at how our recommendations will affect town policy and how we might implement the recommendations
- The recommendations will have to address the role of such organizations as the Historic Commission and the Lincoln Cultural Council
- We will receive the draft on 21 March
- In developing our recommendations, we will need to talk more with the individual boards and committees. A major question for us: how far do we go and what should be left to a later implementation
- We questioned COG on the need to have all papers (of all subcoms) to be somewhat compatible with each other – show the same level of completeness
- Rita indicated that she had more than enough information from CHuG to complete her task – it of course will still be up to CHuG to read and revise the paper once we have received the draft
- Jack prepared an excellent and comprehensive set of discussion points (see attached) – which covers the topic very well – we did not really get a chance to get into a detailed discussion at this meeting. Jack spoke of the changing attitudes toward the establishment of historic districts in town - from what was a real desire in 1981, when the effort started to now when there is less enthusiasm about such intent.
- There is also a new form now – the neighborhood conservation district, which the town has included as a new bylaw
- The question was also asked as to whether there should be a separate paper addressing historic and cultural assets – or whether they will in fact be rolled into one.
- CHuG has expressed a desire to return to some of the organizations possibly with follow-up questions – though there is a danger here of really outgrowing our welcome by asking the same questions yet again. It was also reiterated that a focus group on this topic may not be the best way to go as some people would not feel comfortable in making candid remarks in front a larger group - an individual discussion may produce better results.
- Communication is the key: how to keep everyone informed and working together towards some common goals
- We asked COG to help us by informing us as to how this was handled in other towns. Also, do they know the percentage/number of non-profits in other communities?
- We raised the question about how to involve the schools – education – in the process (at a previous meeting we thought of organizing a focus group with the various educational groups/schools – there is a general feeling that the schools need to be more a part of the town and not just a separate constituency)
- There were also some other questions where we thought COG could help us: how to deal with view sheds (e.g. at MMNHP); archeological issues
- We also reviewed some of the ongoing work Jack is involved in as part of his position on the Historic District Commission: organizing/updating the inventory forms; coordination with FoMA
- Once we will have received the working paper draft, we will study it and have another meeting with COG - probably on 26 March (though this may not work due to the proximity to Town Meeting – on 3/29)

Next meeting: 7:30 AM on 5 March, 2008 – **at the Library.**