

RYE HERITAGE COMMISSION
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 5:30 p.m.
Rye Town Hall

Commission Present: *Chair Alex Herlihy, Vice-Chair Gail Hughes, Treasurer Peter White, David Choate, Frank Lagana, and Alternate Elizabeth Sanborn*

Members Not Present: *Bev Giblin, Mae Bradshaw, and Selectmen's Rep Bill Epperson*

I. Call to Order

Chair Herlihy called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

Motion by Alex Herlihy to seat Elizabeth Sanborn for Bev Giblin. Seconded by Peter White. All in favor.

II. Decision on Gazebo

Chair Herlihy noted that he emailed the proposal for the repair of the gazebo from Jeff Hines to the Commission. Andy Stecher, Rye400 Committee Chair, has also emailed and has confirmed that there is a space available for the work to be done on the gazebo. The Rye400 Committee has also committed \$1,400 to the project. Chair Herlihy also noted that once Jeff has the correct dimensions and determines that nothing from the base of the gazebo can be reused, the Public Works Department will dispose of the original base. Once the base reproduction is built, the Public Works Department or another contractor, will need to place the base on a flatbed, or another piece of equipment, to move it to its final location. If this is not something DPW can do, this will be another cost for the Commission to hire someone who can. The Commission could consider the use of the unrestricted funds or additional fund raising. Chair Herlihy pointed out that moving the gazebo to its final location is part of the whole project, which may require a crane in order to set up both pieces. He also pointed out that the Commission has received a grant for the landscaping around the gazebo site. The Commission also needs to think about what the foundation for the gazebo should be.

Member Choate spoke in regard to the engineering work for the site plan. He has found an engineer who is willing to donate his time to do the site plan for the gazebo.

Alternate Sanborn commented that the money allocated covers the building of the gazebo, but it doesn't cover the transfer and crane. Also, even though Member Choate has found someone who is willing to do the site plan, doesn't mean the plan will be executed or the site work will be done. The grant from the Garden Club will facilitate some plants, but it doesn't come with any

labor. The money that has been allocated for the gazebo pays to have it rebuilt, but it doesn't pay to have it put into place. The Commission still needs to take a vote on whether to move forward. She thinks the money that was outlined in the email is not going to cover the final project.

Chair Herlihy noted that he was just trying to get the quote out to the Commission on what it would cost to rebuild, since it's taken two years to get to that point; a quote that is \$8,000 less than the others. He continued that there are other expenses and that's why the Commission needs to go through them at this meeting. He feels it's an important project that needs to be finished.

Member Choate commented that the Commission hasn't really tried very hard to get donated services on some of the things that are needed; such as, site work and access to the gazebo. He pointed out that in most communities, this work is done by DPW. He doesn't see why Rye's DPW couldn't take on the project.

Treasurer White pointed out that Selectman Epperson is the conduit and supports that notion, so it could probably happen.

Chair Herlihy stated that he doesn't think it's wrong to have a vote on moving forward with the reproduction, even though the other things aren't in place, because the Commission has unrestricted funds, plus DPW and potential donors.

Motion by David Choate to award the contract to rebuild the gazebo to Jeff Hines, as detailed in his proposal of November 10th:

- *Rebuild historic gazebo to be done in local barn and moved by the Town when complete. Top will get new shingles and paint. Bottom will be rebuilt close to original specs and set for assembly by the Town.*
- *\$6,000 deposit - \$2,000 February 1st - \$2,000 upon completion*

Seconded by Peter White. Vote: 4-2 Opposed: Gail Hughes and Elizabeth Sanborn

III. Voting on Louise Tallman Award

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to nominate David Choate as the recipient for the Louise Tallman Award. Seconded by Peter White. Vote: 5-0-1 Abstained: David Choate

IV. Final Details on Dec. 7th Award Event

- Holiday meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7th, 5:30 p.m. at the Rye Historical Museum.
- David Canada and Becky Mitchell from Stratham will be giving a presentation.
- The Rye Historic Society and Select Board will be invited to attend, along with the Demolition Review Committee.
- Chair Herlihy will send out an email to the Commission regarding refreshments.

V. Other Business

Fundraising Mailer:

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to proceed with the mailer with the discussion of the staircases. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.

Adjournment

Motion by Elizabeth Sanborn to adjourn at 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Alex Herlihy. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F Ledger