Members Present: Marcia Coffin, Nat Peirce, Jack McWhorter, Nancy Macalaster, Laurie Bryan, Selectboard liaison, and Linda Coughlan, Recording Secretary

7:00 P.M. Chair Nancy Macalaster called the meeting to order.

Minutes of September 24th, 2019
Marcia Coffin moved to amend the minutes on the last page of the September 24th meeting by adding in this comment made by the architect, “Sheldon had one more question for the commission. He asked if it would make a difference if the ell was taken down with the construction project. The question was asked if there were any structural reasons as to why the ell was to be taken down. Sheldon answered the question by saying no there was not. Then Sheldon asked if it would be more acceptable to deconstruct and then reconstruct the ell and the board answered yes.” Nat Peirce moved to approve the minutes as amended. Jack McWhorter seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Nancy Macalaster began by stating there were two areas she would like to touch on in generalities. The first issue was relative to what procedure should be followed when dealing with a complicated application. Nancy said she had been in touch with Nadine Miller from the NH Division of Historic Resources. Nadine had advised the commission should proceed on complicated applications with a great deal of deliberative and cautionary attention. It was also important to review the ordinance so as a commission they fully understand as they are written.

The second area that Nancy wanted to bring up was alternative energy in the historic district. She said she had also received input on this topic from Nadine Miller which she felt would be helpful. Nancy downloaded the following for members, “Sample Guidelines for Solar Systems in Historic Districts”; the Town of Exeter Historic District Commission Design Guidelines”; “Sustainable Preservation”; “The City of Portsmouth Historic District Commission Guidelines”.

The consensus of the commission was these items would be helpful as a resource in consideration of solar applications.

They discussed the fact that houses on the south of Main Street side solar arrays would not be visible. But they would be visible on the north side of the street.

Nat said the place to start was the Master Plan. He said the planning board is in the process of updating the plan and will be adding alternative energy. Any changes to the ordinance relative to alternative energy would need to go before the Planning Board; then voted on by ballot at town meeting. Nat said there are deadlines for planning board hearings that need to be adhered to.

There being no further business, Nancy moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45. Jack seconded the motion; the vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Coughlan
Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: September 24th at 7:00 P.M