

Hampton Heritage Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes 08/04/2022

Call to order 7:00 P.M. by Chair Ann Carnaby with a salute to the flag.

Members Present:

Ann Carnaby - Commissioner
Christine Bushway - Commissioner
Ericka de Vries - Commissioner
Katherine Harake - Alternate Commissioner
Brianna O'Brien - Conservation Coordinator for Hampton
Betty Moore - Hampton Historical Society

Guests:

John Stewart - Hampton House Marker creator,
Carolyn Fluke- Hampton House Marker purchaser

The meeting began with a presentation of a Hampton House Marker to purchaser Carolyn Fluke. This is the first marker created by artisan John Stewart who is a Hampton resident and has agreed to create the markers for the Heritage Commission going forward. Pictures were taken and Christine Bushway agreed to write and distribute a press release of the presentation and to rewrite and update the promotional descriptive piece for the marker program.

On the agenda was a continuing discussion of what to recommend for the future of the town's Blacksmith Shop and Cooperage on Barbour Road. In addition to a quorum of the Heritage Commissioners and one alternate, the Conservation Commission Coordinator Brianna O'Brian and a liaison representative of the Hampton Historical Society, Betty Moore were at the table and participated in the conversation.

The Cooperage is a small, derelict building with many obviously rotten boards, located 40 - 50 feet to the east of the Blacksmith shop. This was typical in earlier times, since the cooper, a maker of casks and barrels, needed the metal bands from the blacksmith to wrap around his wood parts to complete a barrel, so it was a matter of convenience to be near a smithy.

No one has a key to an existing padlock as far as anyone present at the meeting knew. There are several openings in the walls where the wood has rotted away and where small individuals could enter it. It was noted that the Building Inspector has recommended demolition of this building. From the outside, there seems to be nothing of interest inside except a myriad of ways to injure oneself.

The Commissioners first voted unanimously to request the HHS to photo-document both buildings for their records of the history of the town, and that request has been conveyed to the Historical Society, and they are in full support. Motion made by Erika de Vries, seconded by Ann Carnaby.

The Commissioners then voted unanimously to recommend to the Selectmen that they authorize the demolition of the Cooperage as soon as it has been photo-documented by the HHS, as it is a very real hazard to children, young adults and anyone else who may try to enter it. motion made by Ericka de Vries, seconded by Christine Bushway.

The Heritage Commission believes the Cooperage is a potential liability to the town and recommend it's demolition as soon as the documentation has been completed by the HHS.

Ericka de Vries moves to adjourn. Christine Bushway seconds the motion.

Vote unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by acting secretary
Christine Bushway.