

**Town of New Hampton  
Heritage Commission**

**Meeting Minutes**

March 18, 2024  
New Hampton Town Office, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room  
6 Pinnacle Hill Rd, New Hampton, NH

In attendance:

Mr. Katz (remote, via Zoom)  
Mr. Denoncour  
Mr. Moore

Mr. Katz called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with a quorum present and reviewed the agenda:

1. Approve Minutes from 1/24/24
  2. Grants
    - a. Congressionally Directed Spending Program
    - b. 2024 Mooseplate grant
    - c. LCHIP Grants
  3. Any other business
1. The minutes from 1/24/24 was reviewed and unanimously accepted.
  2. Mr. Katz informed the members of the Town's intention to apply to Sen. Shaheen's office within the Congressionally Directed Spending Program for the preservation of the Town House. Both Mr. Katz and Mr. Denoncour were solicited for letters of support by the Town Administrator. Mr. Denoncour further contacted Mr. Bicknell for the same. A request for a letter was made to the New Hampton School with a positive response. Mr. Katz further explained that grant funds would originate from the National Park Service Save America's Treasures Program that required a 1:1 match from the Town. Mr. Katz had mentioned that to the Town Administrator who responded that an application would be forthcoming and should a match requirement be beyond the Town's capacity the grant could be declined.

2024 LCHIP grants were discussed, and the consensus was that the application for and administration of these grants was beyond the time capacity of the three Commission members and the very limited Town staff. LCHIP grants require 1:1 match. Mr. Katz reminded those present that the Town Master Plan states:

“While the Town shows a desire to preserve natural and historic sites, results of the 2012 Community Survey showed private funding was the most desirable method followed by government grants. Local taxation was the least desirable approach.” The 2019 survey reflected the same sentiment.

Mr. Katz had submitted a letter of intent for a 2024 Mooseplate Grant and received a reply stating that in lieu of re-submitting a full 2024 application, the Town could respond to five questions since we are re-applying for the same scope of work. The discussion yielded the annotated responses and action items:

1. What, if anything, has been accomplished on the project since the time of your last application in June 2023? ***[ACTION REQUIRED] – Check with Town Administrator and Select Board Representative on any work performed from April, 2023 to present.***
2. Will the town be pursuing an LCHIP grant this year? ***[RESPONSE] The Town will not be applying for a 2024 LCHIP grant due to its limited capacity to apply for, administer the grant and the uncertainty of obtaining the proper matching funds. This is a 2024 working item for the Heritage Commission and the Board of Selectmen.***
3. Has the scope of work from the last Moose Plate application changed? How so? Have you received updated costs? If so, please include any updated estimates or scopes of work. ***[ACTION ITEM] Request the Select Board Representative, who obtained the 2023 estimates, to validate the pricing for 2024.***
4. Has there been any new fundraising or commitment of funds from the town to the project? ***[RESPONSE] The Town is applying for a Congressionally Directed Spending grant through Sen. Shaheen’s office. The Commission has previously investigated National Park Service grants. Neither the Commission nor the Town have sufficient interested and able volunteers to engage in the timely pursuit of grant like this. The Commission is drafting a 2025 Warrant Article to begin funding a Town Trust account to permit matching these 1:1 grants. In addition, the Commission will work with the Town Capital Improvement Plan committee to properly frame the need and timing of such funds.***
5. Looking over the review panel’s comments from last year, some questioned the approach addressing the drainage problems before fixing the foundation. Some asked whether they should be completed at the same time or in the opposite order – foundation repairs first, then drainage. Any clarification you can provide to that thought is welcome. ***[RESPONSE] The Town commissioned and completed a Historic Building Assessment in 2023 that outlined a preservation road map considering the Town’s resources and capacity to perform preservation activities on the Town House. Our preservation contractor’s recommendation, which the Commission and the Select Board accepts, called for first the remediation of imposing landscape and the drainage to stop the water infiltration to the basement of the building. Performing both the site work and the foundation repairs would be ideal but beyond the near-term economic capability of the Town, thus the scheduling of the foundation work later in the preservation timeline.***

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM as there was no other business.