

MEET ME IN SUNCOOK!
Minutes of Meeting
October 4, 2016

Present: Joan Bailey, Noreen Bean, Gerry Belanger, Joyce Belanger, Melaine Boisvert (chair), Mariette Brissette, Joan Bussiere, Jackie Clark, Ed Cyr, Ron Daviault (co-chair), Norma Daviault, Jim Garvin, Bob Girard, Jeanne Letendre, Larry Perron.

1. Co-chair Melaine Boisvert called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. On a motion by Ron Daviault, seconded by Joan Bussiere, the minutes of the meeting of September 6, 2016 were approved with the correction that "Suncook Rover" (Item 10) should be spelled "Suncook River."
3. Noreen Bean gave the Treasurer's Report, as follows:

Checkbook balance on September 6, 2016:	\$5,689.50
Income:	None
Expenses:	None
Checkbook balance on October 4, 2016:	\$5,689.50

On a motion by Jim Garvin, seconded by Ron Daviault, the treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

4. Noreen Bean reported no update on the vault contents. Noreen and Larry Perron noted, however, that the vault is now securely locked for the first time since *Meet Me in Suncook* began to store collections in it. Dana Carlucci was kind enough to cut off the old padlock that was locked through the ring of the hasp of the inner vault door. This provided space to attach a new lock on the hasp. The keys to the new lock are in the custody of Noreen Bean and Larry Perron. Larry agreed to be the key master at future *Meet Me in Suncook* meetings.

Old Business:

5. Melaine Boisvert suggested that we postpone a discussion of reminiscences of life in Suncook Village until the November meeting since the list of interview questions did not reach most committee members. Melaine will distribute the list of questions for the next meeting.
6. Ron and Norma Daviault reported that they attended the PlanNH charrette in Allenstown on September 30 and October 1. The charrette brought planners, architects, real estate specialists, and other professionals to town to study the village area and to develop a plan for the future of Allenstown west of Route 3 and between the Pembroke and Hooksett town lines, including the China Mill neighborhood. A "listening session" on Friday evening brought about forty local participants, including Armand and Claudette Verville, who made a half-hour presentation on the history of China Mill. The committee took the information that was provided on Friday

evening and worked all day Saturday, developing some broad concepts. These ideas, analyses, and drawings will be published in a charrette handbook that will serve as a document for future grant applications and for planning that will focus on upgraded housing, streets, and infrastructure and will enhance business opportunities in the area. The charrette book will eventually be made available on-line, as other PlanNH charrette books now are. The charrette participants emphasized that because China Mill is still producing fiber, Suncook Village is the last intact and operating textile mill community in New Hampshire.

Larry Perron noted that he has a sheet that lists all the houses and other properties that were offered for sale when Suncook Mills liquidated its real estate holdings.

Gerry Belanger reminded the committee that we have been discussing the future mission of *Meet Me in Suncook*. He suggested that we contact Allenstown town administrator Shaun Mulholland and discuss adopting a project that arises out of the charrette.

7. Melaine Boisvert reported that the Pembroke Public Works Department will dismount the “Robert Frost’s Honeymoon” marker at Frost Park and prepare it for shipping to Ohio after fall road work is completed.
8. In September, Joan Bailey had suggested that the “Business District” traffic signs on Route 3 could be made more enticing to passing motorists. Jim Garvin suggested that since we have a business district that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Suncook Village might qualify for a sign directing traffic to the “Historic District” or the “Historic Business District.” Gerry Belanger observed that since *Meet Me in Suncook* was established in part to encourage businesses, we might try to find out who has authority over the “Business District” signs and request that they be re-worded.

Jim Garvin reported that he had looked into the New Hampshire Department of Transportation rules governing “Historic District” signs. He learned that NHDOT will allow “Historic District” signs for centers that “consist of multiple sites listed in the National Register of Historic Places” *and* “are defined by the municipality as a historic district.” Suncook Village has multiple buildings listed in the National Register thanks to *Meet Me in Suncook*’s efforts in 2005 to sponsor the “Suncook Village Commercial/Civic Historic District” nomination; see: <http://npgallery.nps.gov/nrhp/GetAsset?assetID=2cd26372-0bb7-466c-99cc-0a53d652c53d>

However, the Town of Pembroke has not officially designated downtown Suncook Village as a “historic district.” Such designation is usually accomplished through the creation of a local Historic District Commission and/or Heritage Commission and through the definition of the boundaries of such a district. The Historic and Cultural Resources chapter of the Pembroke Master Plan of 2004 suggests that Pembroke “study the establishment of a Pembroke Heritage Commission,” but this has not been done. At this time, it is therefore unclear whether NHDOT would allow the current “Business District” signage to be changed to “Historic District” or “Historic Business District.”

Jim Garvin will attempt to learn the proper contact person at NHDOT to inquire whether there is a possibility that the signs could be changed.

New Business:

9. Jim Garvin read Jo-Ann Bélanger's e-mail message of October 4, requesting that we provide Jo-Ann with a list of folks who agreed to be interviewed in French or English for her class. Jo-Ann asked that we pass around a piece of paper for people to put their name, phone number and/or e-mail address, whether they want to be interviewed in French or English or a bit of each, and days of the week/times of day that are good for them. Jo-Ann was willing to meet on a Tuesday night even though that is her normal class time. She will contact everyone who volunteers for an interview with a date /time that she would bring the students to the Pembroke Library to do the interviews.

Melaine distributed a sheet of paper for anyone interested in being interviewed to sign up.

10. The committee also discussed Jo-Ann's suggestions for a fundraiser. Jo-Ann had suggested that we might invite the Quebec delegate in Boston or the French Consul General to speak at an event. Jo-Ann suggested that if we want to pursue these ideas, she would be willing to investigate the details and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

Melaine suggested that we contact Jo-Ann and invite her to pursue the details of such an event.

Joyce Belanger wondered whether the Whittemore Homestead on Pembroke Street might be made available for a fundraising event. She recalled that Ayn Whytemare gave a tour of the homestead in 2009 in conjunction with Pembroke's 250th anniversary celebration.

11. Melaine listed the following tasks for members of the committee:

- Melaine Boisvert to distribute the list of questions for interviews that will be placed in the archives of *Meet Me in Suncook*.
- Jim Garvin to contact Ammy Heiser of the Pembroke Conservation Commission about cutting bittersweet and other invasive plants that block the view of the Suncook River from Robert Frost Park.
- Jim Garvin to try to determine who at the New Hampshire Department of Transportation could advise us about a replacement highway sign directing traffic to Historic Suncook Village.
- Mariette Brissette to contact Shaun Mulholland and ask that *Meet Me in Suncook* be placed on a mailing list for any updates resulting from the Allenstown charrette.
- Jim Boisvert to prepare the Robert Frost's Honeymoon marker for shipment to Ohio.
- Jo-Ann Bélanger to pursue details of a fundraiser involving the Quebec delegate in Boston or the French Consul General.

12. Larry Perron displayed a binder containing photographs and documents documenting the 1929 auction of the holdings of Dundee Mills in Hooksett Village. Larry noted that Emerson Furniture Company took over the Dundee buildings until they were damaged by the flood.

Emerson Furniture Company then moved their operation to the Webster Mill in Suncook Village.

The next meeting of *Meet Me in Suncook* will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 at the old Pembroke Fire and Police Station.

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James L. Garvin, Secretary