

BAKERSFIELD CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Special Meeting Thursday November 9, 2023, 1 PM Unapproved Minutes
In Person, Town Hall

Present for a Quorum: Pat Evans, Larry Krygier, Alice Foote, Carolyn Bronz. Guest: Sharon Evans

Call to Order: 1:06pm

Discussion of Carriage Barn Project, timeline, next steps for procuring grants:

- Sharon and Alice found a likely sounding grant, the Bruhn Revitalization through Preservation Trust of VT. The deadline for this is 12-21, so a tight timeline. It's not a matching grant and we can apply for the maximum needed according to the estimate we got - which is roughly \$61,000-\$75,000. Sharon and Alice wrote the successful grant to get detailed estimates of the work needed on the two old buildings in the Town Park, (Carriage House and Garage) and the Hearse House which is owned by the Cemetery Commission. (We think). We are being encouraged by the state people we've been in contact with to rescue the Carriage House; they feel it's significant enough to save it. This preservation grant means using as much of the original materials as possible and keeping it close to its original appearance. One of the requirements is that if we are awarded a grant we would have to be on the list of National Register of historic places; we are not on that list, but we can get a letter of eligibility. (There was a National Register nomination form completed for a historic district in Bakersfield but it was never finalized) We also would need to agree to having an easement by the PTV.
- The survey of Bakersfield is so old it has to be updated. It's from 1983.
- The Carriage Barn would also be eligible for the State Historic Preservation Grant if the Bruhn grant doesn't work out. The deadline for this year has passed and fall 2024 is the next opportunity to apply.
- Alex Barkely is a grant writer who lives in town. The Selectboard has hired him to write at least one grant for them. He is interested in our project and we will invite him to attend our next meeting on Thursday the 17th. Sharon has already filled out the pre-application for qualifying to write the grant. We thank you Sharon for all the work you've been doing for this project!
- Ideas for how the building could be used: We need community involvement. Collaboration with the school for educational programs focused on town history. Collaboration with the library. A place for selling summer produce. Mounting historical photos and information. A shelter for bikers coming through.
- Vermont Arts Council has grants available for interior work on buildings.
- Alice has a document about the park. When we bought it we had a list of easements. Naramore was an owner in 1890, before the Hearse House was built. The document describes who owned the property on all four sides. Hearse House was a work building. Was the second floor used for hay? Parts of the first floor have been removed and it's dangerous to go in there. Remains of stone from the old vault can be seen nearby.
- **Motion** (CB,LK) to hire Alex Barkly to write the Bruhn Grant for the work to be done to preserve the Carriage Barn. **Passed.**
- **Motion** (AF, CB) to spend up to \$600 to pay for the grantwriter. **Passed.**

Other Business: Discussion about the management of the three entities (BCC, Cemetery Commission, Town Common). There is some confusion about how it will work.

- We are on the agenda for the Selectboard Meeting Monday Nov. 13. They have documents for us to sign in order to hire contractors. We will clarify our position on whether we want to have the Town Common entity as a subcommittee within our Commission. At this point, we are recommending that the Town Common be its own organization, as our focuses and projects are very different and our budget is small, almost entirely self-funded, and already designated for ongoing BCC projects.
- Sharon will also attend this meeting and will clarify information about the assessment/estimate grant for the three buildings.

Adjourn: 2:25