

CHENEY BROTHERS NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
MINUTES OF April 15, 2021
VIRTUAL MEETING VIA ZOOM
5:30 P.M.

Members Present: Lynne Ferrigno, Co-Chair; Bettye Kramer, Co-Chair; Leslie Frey, Secretary; Tom Ferguson, Mary Dunne, Mary Ann Handley, Starr McLean, Geoffrey Naab, Susan Barlow, Curtisea Anderson and Jack Prior, Ex-Officio

Members Absent: William Farley, Rita McParland and Amanda DeLaura

Also Present: Gary Anderson, Director of Planning and Economic Development; AnneMarie Boyle, Senior Account Associate

Ms. Ferrigno called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

Ms. Ferrigno welcomed newly appointed Commission member, Ms. Curtisea Anderson, and invited her to introduce herself to the members. Ms. Anderson said that she has been a resident of Manchester since 2000. She resides with her husband, a 35 year Manchester resident, and their four children. Ms. Anderson expressed a great love for the town. She said that she is a history buff and is very excited to be a part of the Cheney Commission.

I. Adoption of the Minutes of February 18, 2021

Ms. Ferrigno asked for a motion to adopt the minutes. Mr. McLean moved to adopt the minutes. Ms. Handley seconded. Mr. Naab suggested a correction to a statute reference and Ms. Kramer asked for one additional correction. Ms. Ferrigno asked for a vote on the minutes as amended. All members voted in favor with the exception of Ms. Frey who abstained.

II. Old Business

Ms. Kramer said that she had spoken with Eric Prause, the Chairman of the Planning & Zoning Commission (PZC), about the Cheney Commission wanting to make their position on certain applications more clear when they submit a formal recommendation. She said Mr. Prause understood their concerns and would be happy to have a Cheney Commission member present at the Commission's meetings to speak, or to present a written report when necessary. She said that Mr. Prause said he would speak with Mr. Anderson to ensure that there were no statutes or regulations that would prevent the Cheney Commission from being able to communicate with the PZC in that way. Mr. Anderson confirmed that he spoke with Mr. Prause and that there are no statutory or regulatory issues with that procedure. He said that it would be a more direct way for the Commission to communicate with the PZC. Mr. Anderson said it would be appropriate for a Commission member to attend PZC meetings when it involved an application that they opposed or recommended

changes, but it would be unnecessary to attend for applications that the Cheney Commission recommended for approval.

III. New Business

1. Historic Preservation Awards Event

Mr. McLean said the Historic Preservation Awards are tentatively scheduled for May 19, 2021 at 5:30 pm at Center Springs Park. He is in the process of obtaining confirmation for the location. Mr. Anderson said he would assist with getting Mr. McLean in touch with the Parks Department to solidify holding the event at the park. Mr. McLean said he would like to have handouts distributed to Manchester residents informing them of the event.

2. Action on Historic Preservation Award Nominees

The Commission reviewed a PowerPoint presentation of the 15 nominated properties. Members reviewed the qualifying credentials and discussed each nominee. Two properties were removed from consideration for not meeting the minimum requirements.

The members held a vote and came to the decision that five homes would be honored with a preservation award:

- 634 Woodbridge St.
- 115 Diane Dr.
- 54 Hudson St.
- 57 Boulder Rd
- 16 Bigelow St.

In addition to the five homes, the Cheney Rail Trail will also be honored.

Mr. McLean said that his hope is to use the pavilion at Center Springs Park for the event. Mr. Ferguson said perhaps they should ask the Parks Dept. if they would be able to set up picnic tables or tables and chairs for the event. Mr. McLean said that this year, due to COVID restrictions, the awards event would have to be kept simple. He said they would not be able to have food platters, as in the past, and would likely just have bottled water and perhaps other drinks available for attendees.

Mr. McLean said that he wants to be sure the Mayor and the PZC are invited to the event. Mr. Anderson said he had contacted Loren LeBel to let the Mayor know the event date. He asked if they would also be inviting the Board of Directors, to which the

members replied yes. Ms. Frey said she will send the invitations once the location has been confirmed.

Mr. McLean said he would like to have some of the Commission's welcome brochures out on a table at the event for people to take. Or if those are not available, perhaps a flyer with a statement about who the Cheney Commission is and what we are about. Mr. Anderson indicated that could be arranged.

IV. Communications

V. Committee Reports

VI. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

VII. Adjournment

Mr. Ferguson moved to adjourn, Ms. Frey seconded and all members voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.