

CANDIA HERITAGE COMMISSION

Approved Minutes of January 3, 2007

In attendance: Diane Philbrick, Mac Higgins, Jim Lindsey, Kim Byrd, Jon Godfrey, Ron Thomas, Clark Thyng and Sarah Giles.

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Diane Philbrick at 7:32 pm.

The minutes for December were unanimously approved with one correction: that Ken Madden should have been included among those in attendance.

Soldier's Monument Restoration

Clark reported that he had contacted the State regarding the monument restoration grant and was reassured that as long as progress was being made, the grant would not expire until June, 2007. Ron reported that committee members collectively got 38 (out of 44) valid signatures on the petition for funding the remaining amount necessary to restore the monument. The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved placing this article in the Warrant for the 2007 Annual Town Meeting. Clark has had difficulty reaching Rika McNally who was selected to do the restoration work but will continue to try. Clark has agreed to speak to this article at Town Meeting.

Pond/Park Project

Jon reported that Rick Champagne will be installing the roof on the Gazebo. The floor will be installed by volunteers in the spring. Ron Severino has sent an invoice for \$29,760 which he says represents the completion of 60% of the work outlined in the contract. Jon has had some difficulty dealing with Severino who has not returned his calls or e-mails. He is concerned about the dredging depth among other items in the contract. Final approval must be received no later than December 31, 2008 in order to qualify for matching funds and Jon has been told that it is critical to leave sufficient time to correct problems identified by the Federal inspectors. After much discussion the consensus was that Clark would draft a letter to Ron Severino on behalf of the Selectmen requesting a meeting to discuss concerns regarding the contract and hopefully to come to an agreement regarding the timely completion of the project. Ron Thomas suggested that at this meeting expectations regarding the grading, berms and paths be clarified to avoid any misunderstanding. No payment will be made to Severino before a meeting takes place.

Clark informed the committee that Mr. Davis, who owns a portion of the pond and who was approached about giving it to the Town, was considering granting an *easement* to the Town across his land in exchange for naming the park after his family. After discussion it was decided that if Mr. Davis offers an *easement* the committee would recommend that the Selectmen decline the offer; if he offers to *give* the land in question to the Town, the committee would discuss the matter further. A general discussion followed about the official name of the park but no decisions were made.

Once the weather is sufficiently cold, a Skating Party will take place on the pond, possibly during February vacation or on a weekend. Jon has agreed to promote it. Steve Abelson will be asked to maintain the ice and trail to the pond. Parking will be in the school lot. Hot chocolate will be served. Mac raised the issue of safety of the ice for skating throughout the winter. Clark responded that Candia police will be trained to determine the safety of the ice and will post signs indicating when safe or unsafe. Clark noted that the paper work to reserve the pond for private use would be the same as for Moore Park.

Heritage Map

Jim unveiled the Candia map prepared by Dollard Associates (dated 12-18-06) and which shows the location of: Old School Houses; Town Buildings; Town Cemeteries; Private Cemeteries; Churches; Mills; and Monuments. Jim distributed CD's to all committee members including instructions describing how to see various "THEMES" or layers (such as Mills) in the ArcExplorer program. He encouraged all committee members to think of ways this could be improved and welcomed feedback. The committee thanked Jim for all the time and effort he has spent collecting the necessary data for this map.

Town Report

Diane has drafted an annual report of the Heritage Commission which she sent to Jon to review. Diane will e-mail the final draft to committee members before the Town's deadline, January 17.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 8, 2007 at 7:30.

Minutes recorded by Sarah Giles