

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2020

The mission of the Peterborough Heritage Commission is to identify, preserve, and protect the historical, architectural, cultural, and social heritage of our town and to preserve historical landscapes, views, and buildings in their landscapes.

In 2020, the central focus of our efforts was on the rehabilitation and preservation of the Elizabeth Yates McGreal home on Old Street Road. Given the restrictions of the COVID19 pandemic the funds that had been committed for this project were frozen. Our direction now focuses on discovering who, in fact, has ultimate legal responsibility for this property, while working to re-establish communication with the various agencies involved with its renovation and repair.

Related to this work is the preservation of the collection of works by Nora Unwin, the illustrator who had collaborated with Elizabeth Yates on numerous book projects, and whom was also a resident of Peterborough. This collection had been housed at the Sharon Arts Center before it had closed and is currently being cared for by New England College. The Monadnock Center for History and Culture has expressed interest in housing this collection and has the facilities to do so.

Also in collaboration with the Monadnock Center, along with Roy's Market, is the pop-up museum exhibit posted in the windows of Roy's Market on Main Street. This exhibit presents a photographic history of the Main Street Bridge with supporting text.

The Demolition Review Committee, a sub committee of the Heritage Commission composed of members of the HC and at-large members from the community, had few requests in this calendar year. There are a couple of demolition permits that had been approved but have not been acted on. This may also be symptomatic of this pandemic time.

On hold for the moment is rejuvenating the town-wide barn survey, an effort in past years to cooperate with the Preservation Alliances' to help save historic agricultural buildings.

In 2021, the commission will continue it's efforts to restore the McGreal House. We will continue to assist the Monadnock Center to find a home for the Nora Unwin collection. Our plans for the coming year also include expanding our collaboration with other community groups and organizations and continuing to monitor the Main Street Bridge mitigation project.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Kaiser, Alternate
Karen Kambol, Secretary
Colin Murdough
Jason Pelletieri
Tina Rapp
Peggy Shaughnessy
Peggy Van Valkenburg, Treasurer
Douglas Ward, Chair
Tyler Ward, Select Board Liason

