

**Hampton Falls Heritage Commission**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**  
**February 4, 2013**

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:50 pm. In attendance were David French, Chair, Beverly Mutrie, Secretary, Maryann Kasprzak, Wendy Harrington and Georgiana Swain, members. Guests included Cynthia Wojcicki, Tracy Beattie, Don Janik, Todd Santora, Mark Thompson, all members of the Friends of the Merrill Property group.
2. The minutes from December 12 were approved as written upon a motion by B. Mutrie, seconded by W. Harrington and all concurred.
3. The Treasurer's report stated that there was \$3352.19 in our account as of Jan. 25.
4. The Chair called for a motion to pay \$100 to the NH Preservation Alliance for the grant to survey the Merrill Barn. M. Kasprzak so moved, W. Harrington seconded and all agreed. The FOMP will contact Arron Sturgis to commence work on the survey and report.
5. The FOMP presented its ideas on the preservation and stabilization efforts of the Merrill buildings to the Commission. They will be doing an email tree with an attached flyer urging a positive vote on the warrant articles at the School's deliberative session and also the vote in March. They will check with the school regarding sending the video to the parents. The website has the video of the cleanup and some historical information at [SaveMerrill.com](http://SaveMerrill.com).
6. Tracy has a large poster that will be available at the deliberative session and afterwards at the Library on an easel for viewing. Postcards and posters were handed out for placement on bulletin boards or at the Library or General Store.
7. Yard sign wording was discussed and decided upon. About 20 will be ordered with navy letters stating "SAVE/ MERRILL BUILDINGS/Vote YES #5,6,7/ School Ballot *or facsimile*."
8. Some of the FOMP plan to attend Candidate's Night, February 12.
9. A mailer/flyer will be sent out prior to the vote in March, roughly 1200 pieces, ½ a legal sheet, printed in black and white. Cindy showed a mock-up.
10. Various FOMP members will be speaking to the warrant articles at the Deliberative Session Thursday night and draft speeches were discussed and revised.
  - a. The Barn is a "hand-hewn, scribe rule English tie beam barn, dating to the mid 1800s with a Yankee barn floor plan and gable entry doors". The roof needs bracing to stabilize it and the \$4000 asked for will do the bracing and a rubber membrane on the roof.

- b. The Merrill House needs repair of the roof hole and remediation of the mold. The buildings were part of the 1.2M purchase price and should be preserved to recoup some of our investment. \$2500 warrant article would be for a fund to take care of unforeseen expenses for the next five years.
  - c. The importance of the Merrill Buildings to the rural landscape of Hampton Falls was discussed and the history of the farmstead was described. The support of the school district is necessary to prevent further deterioration, and preserve a piece of our history. The preservation article does not ask for funds to “preserve” the buildings, but is only a referendum on the importance of keeping the buildings intact and in situ if possible.
  - d. The article about subdividing the property in order to sell the real estate was debated, both pro and cons. The conclusion was that the School Board hasn’t given us enough information to vote for this question .
11. As time gets closer to the vote in March, letters to the editor of the Hampton Union and other newspaper articles will be drafted and submitted.
12. The next meeting of the FOMP will be Feb. 11 at the Library. We thanked them for their efforts in preserving a house and barn important to our heritage.
13. Discussion ensued regarding the submittal of the newsletter article for the town report and agreed upon.
14. The next meeting of the Heritage Commission will be March 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm.
15. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm upon a motion by M. Kasprzak, seconded by G. Swain with all in favor.
16. Respectfully submitted, Beverly Mutrie, recording secretary