



**NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources 603-271-3483  
19 Pillsbury Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Concord NH 03301-3570  
FAX 603-271-3433 [preservation@dcr.nh.gov](mailto:preservation@dcr.nh.gov) Voice/TDD RELAY ACCESS 1-800-735-2964

**HISTORIC AGRICULTURAL STRUCTURES MATCHING GRANTS  
PROGRAM**

**(HB 395 □ CHAPTER 285, LAWS OF 1999 □ RSA 227-C: 27 – RSA 227-C: 32)  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Eighty-Fifth Meeting – Monday, December 19, 2011**

**1:00 P.M.**

**19 Pillsbury St., Concord, NH**

*(An accessible public facility)*

Carl Schmidt, NH State Historic Resources Council  
Elizabeth Muzzey, Director, Director & SHPO, NH Division of Historical Resources  
Beverly Thomas, Program Associate, NH Preservation Alliance  
Jennifer Goodman, Executive Director, NH Preservation Alliance  
John Porter, Executive Director, NH Preservation Alliance  
Mae Williams, Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food  
Ben Wilson, Bureau of Historic Sites, Dept. of Resources & Economic Development  
Chet Riley, Friends of the Barn Committee  
Steve Bedard, Friends of the Barn Committee

**I. Announcements and minutes of September 19 Meeting**

John Porter brought in Lowell E? new barn calendar for 2012.

Minutes were approved with minor edits by Jennifer and seconded by Chet Riley.

**II. Creating a Matching Grant Program**

**A. N.H. Preservation Alliance support**

On July 20<sup>th</sup> there was a half day meeting with Betsy M. From this meeting there was a strong sense that the limited feasibility study is needed.

On August 11<sup>th</sup> the Friends of the Barn Committee met with Jennifer Goodman and Beverly Thomas who had reviewed Betsy's proposal. It was concluded that the study was needed if the NH Preservation Alliance Board concurred.

On September 22<sup>nd</sup> at the NH Preservation Alliance Board meeting a statement, read by Carl Schmidt, supporting the feasibility study, if the grant program enhances NH Preservation Alliance's programs and fund raising. Also, they

would like technical assistance programs included in the feasibility study. Jennifer felt that this was a positive step by the Board.

The Friends met on December 12<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Alliance's statement and agreed on moving forward with the feasibility study.

Discussion on the use of "in principle" was needed or was it ambiguous and it was determined that the statement would read "the Friends of the Barn Committee and the NH Preservation Alliance are collaborating on a feasibility study..." It was also noted that donors will be vetted through the Alliance. Friends are putting together a list now of 16 individuals and a number of potential contacts. When that is complete they will sit down with the Alliance and potentially Betsy, to compare notes.

At the Friends meeting, they discussed Betsy returning with advice not to fundraise unless certain changes are made, such as increasing capacity and addressing sustainability. Feasibility study may clarify whether donors are interested in a grant program that includes technical assistance programs (assessments grants, workshops, etc.) or only a bricks and mortar grant program.

**B. Full Circle Consulting proposal to conduct Limited Feasibility Study**

To review the scope from Betsy the Friends will meet 3 times (1/11, 1/25 and 3/20)

1. Consider Friends of New Hampshire Barns recommendation to accept the proposal

1/11 – will work on case statement and draft list of questions donors may raise.

1/25 – hopefully with Betsy and the Alliance to look over the list of potential donors.

Criteria: primarily individuals or one-person/family foundations (Corporate may equal 20% of giving, non in the study). This will be open to donors interested in only certain portions of the state. Fifteen donors will provide a broad spectrum of donors.

3/20 – Tuesday after the report is due to review the study. This meeting may be with just the Friends or expanded to include the Barn Committee and the Preservation Alliance.

2. Necessary preparatory steps for the Study

Can an option for re-assessing the feasibility process be added to the scope such as refining case study, donor list, etc.? Also to be considered, when will it be appropriate for a member of the Friends to accompany her and the pros and cons to both.

A vote was opened to approve Betsy's 12/15 proposal to conduct a limited feasibility study, cost not to exceed \$11,000 drawing on funds held by the Park Street Foundation for the Barn Committee, by Chet. Beth 2<sup>nd</sup> and all in favor.

Carl will now sign the contract with Full Circle and Carl will be monitoring Betsy's progress and work with her to make adjustments , as needed, as the interviews unfold.

Photographs for the case statement were addressed. Mae Williams will be looking at the NH Department of Agriculture. Carl will look at Travel & Tourism. Others will forward as available.

- C. Other related Grant Program work, including possible revision of draft Memorandum of Understanding and of draft Grant Manual**  
Chet asked what the status of the former MOU between the Friends, Barn Committee and the Alliance. Jennifer said that the MOU has been "parked" until feasibility study is complete. Findings of study will influence the MOU in its final form. The group will refer back to the MOU post-study and post-work with Amy Lockwood and refine it.

Further revisions to the grant manual are still needed on topics such as financial need, checks and balances, etc. This will be topic at the next Barn Committee meeting.

### **III. Planning to support renewal of RSA 79-D easements**

The annual report on RSA 79-D easements has been received and it was in an easier to read format this year. In years past a press release went out in February to discuss trends over the last year and a reminder to renew. The first 70-D easements are up for renewal in 2012. The Barn Committee needs to work with the DRA to determine the date barn owners need to reapply (end of the 10 year easement duration). Is it April 2012 or April 2013? Chet said that there is a need to create a good "trickler" system to alert barn owners that they need to re-apply. Difficulty is that towns have all the administered program on individual basis. There is a need to check back at the first of the year report to see where the 1<sup>st</sup> easements were granted. Chet will be glad to work with Beverly and Carolyn Baldwin on this.

### **IV. Promotional Events**

#### **A. Planning for Farm & Forest EXPO, February 3-4, 2012**

Deb Gagne & Beverly Thomas will handle booth logistics. Last year's questionnaire was not overly successful when handed out at the booth. Beverly will rethink it and maybe it would be best to have a questionnaire at the session with Aaron Sturgis.

##### **1. Joint Exhibit Booth**

It will be important to promote the Old House and Barn Expo in March at the booth.

- 2. Barn Committee-sponsored education session: "How to Read Your Barn", by Arron Sturgis, 9 a.m., February 3**
- 3. N.H. Preservation Alliance panel discussion: "Alternative Models for Saving Historic Farm Properties", 12 - 2 p.m., February 3**

Maggie Stier will be heading up the panel discussion session. There seems to be a lot of owners or groups finding alternative ways to save farms/barns, such as for community farms. John Porter suggested that they contact Lou Mahoney, the new owner of the former sod farm in Canterbury, to serve as a panelist. No firm updates yet on who the panelists will be.

**B. Planning for Old House & Barn EXPO, March 24-25, 2012**

Steve Bedard will do a session and Aaron Sturgis will repeat his Farm & Forest session. The “Ask Old House & Barn” session will be repeated at the Expo.

**ADD-ON:**

1. Chet brought up the SE Land Trust and his town of Hampton has been working on the old 123 acre Batchelor Farm. The town, federal agencies and local people have been working on conserving it. Adjacent to the preserved Hurd farm land. With LCHIP’s recent grant they are very close to completing the purchase.
2. John said that there are a couple of hundred copies of the barn book left. Long-range – do we want to do any updates before reprinting? New contributors or add more photos? Who else besides UNH would print this? A better marketing plan may also be needed. John has sold about 5,000 of his tailgate. He has had some early discussion with UPNE although UNH may want to hold onto it. Randall Press may also be an option. This is something to think about in the future.

**V. Next Meeting Date – to review draft case statement (date?)**