

Newington Historic District Commission – MINUTES

February 19, 2020, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

OLD TOWN HALL – Schoolhouse Museum room

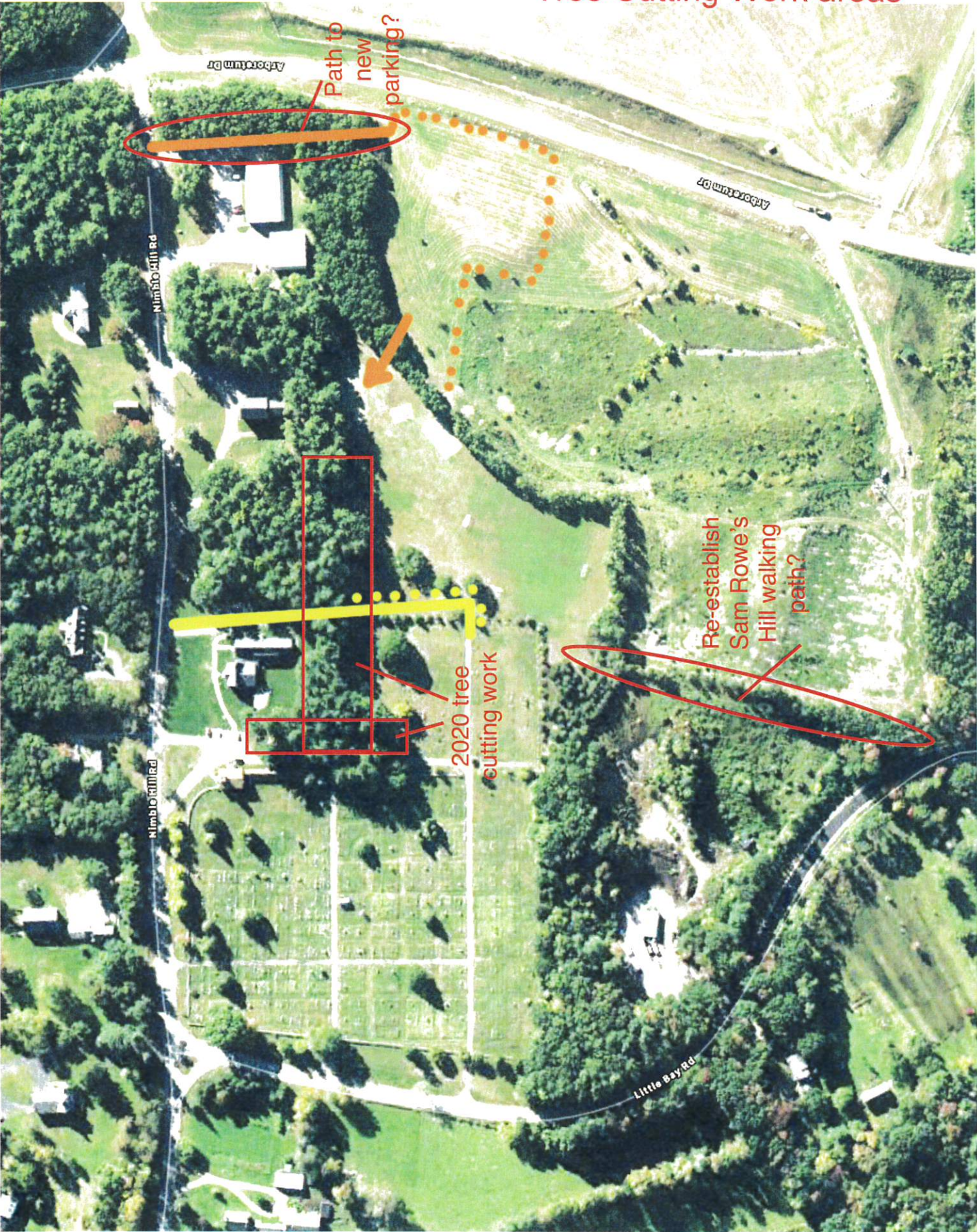
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ted Connors Member (2020) ✓ Christopher Cross Member (2020) ✓ John Lamson Member (2021), arrived 30 minutes late ✓ Lulu Pickering Member (2020) ✓ Maxine Mintz Pottier Member (2020) Alan Wilson Member (2022)
Budget expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$300 authorized for purchase of archival storage boxes and sleeves (motion by Chris Cross, seconded by Maxine Pottier, unanimous). • Ted Connors reported that the Town will purchase two storage cabinets for processed documents. • \$6,030 purchase order to be sent to the Town Office for painting the cannons (money encumbered from the 2019 budget plus money in the 2020 budget). • \$2,000 purchase order to be sent to the Town Office for purchasing fencing supplies for the fence around Peggy's Arboretum. Not an HDC budget issue but part of the early Spring projects to get underway.
Historic District beautification – Cannon painting	Lulu to contact the contractor to schedule the painting this spring.
Historic District beautification – Tree Cutting	<p>Three areas were discussed for this year's tree cutting work (attached map):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearing the debris, bush hogging, limbing, and cutting some trees (mostly pines) along the recreation area and Southern Division of the cemetery that border the stone walls behind the library and those beside the meeting house. This area serves, in part, as the "working area" of the cemetery where excess gravel is stored. The goal is to make the area more walkable, give select hardwood trees the opportunity to spread out and grow, and to remove ground obstacles. It was decided that this area will be the focus of work done in 2020. • Establishing a path past the Town Garage to a potential parking area behind the building. This path will likely be a later phase project. • Clearing the debris, limbing and cutting some trees to re-establish the walking path up Sam Rowe's Hill to the back of the recreational fields. This path will likely be a later phase project to extend the walking trails in the area west of the Historic District.
Historic beautification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The selectmen felt they could save money in the Land Management line item of their budget by using the town crew.

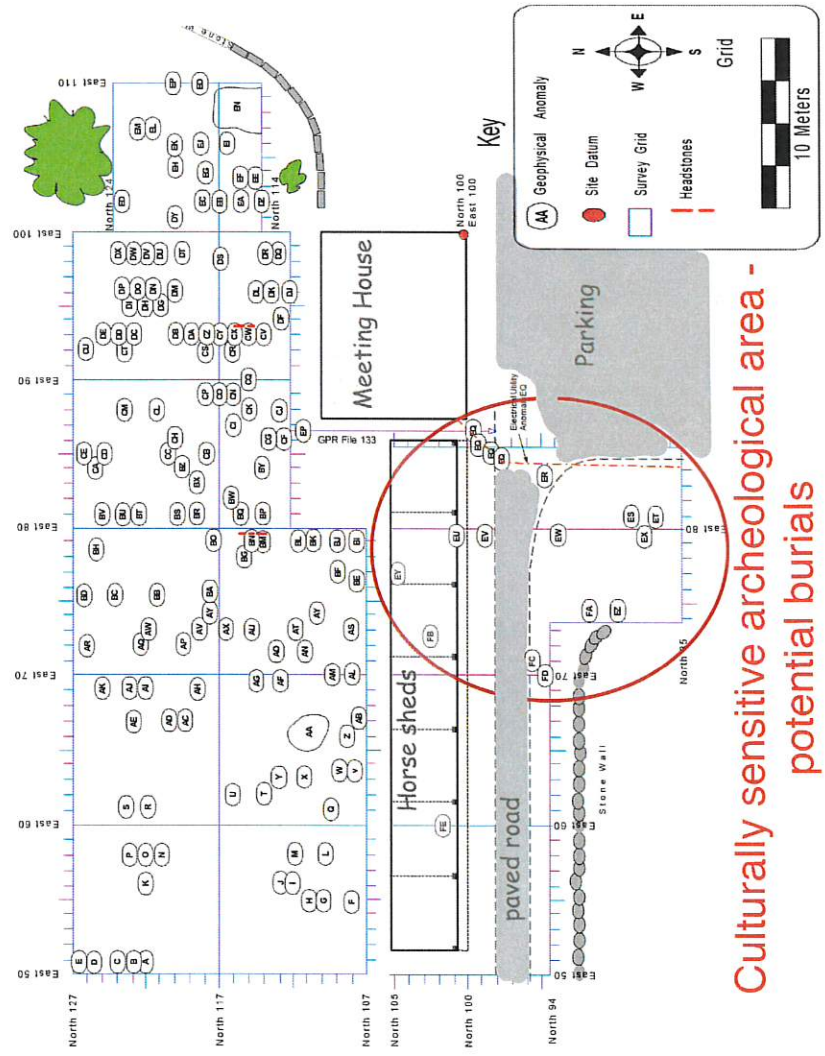
– Stump removal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Connors will take responsibility for having the tree stumps removed beside the Old Parsonage and Old Stone School. These trees were cut in 2018.
Culturally sensitive area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 2009 ground penetrating radar study inside and outside of the town cemetery was recovered from the Historical Society closet. • The study identified 161 anomalies in areas that have no gravestones. Some areas are underneath horse sheds, others are adjacent to parking areas and the paved road by the horsesheds (attached map). • It is possible, but by no means proven, that people of different religions, slaves, indentured servants, and those who had been cast out of the church could be buried outside the boundaries of the cemetery. We really do not have anything more than conjecture and anomalies to go on at the present time. • However, this area should be marked with a sign and/or border that designates it as a culturally sensitive archeological area.
Historic District beautification – Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Library trustees last met with the HDC on November 21, 2018 to discuss a proposed parking lot. The request was tabled because the HDC wants to address the parking situation across the entire district. • The Library trustees moved forward with their plans, spent money on engineering diagrams, and submitted a warrant article for Town Meeting for money to construct their parking lot. • Ted Connors will convene a group of stakeholders from the groups that use buildings in the historic district to discuss their needs and to create a phased approach to addressing parking needs across the historic district. • The Library Trustees will still need to come before the HDC to get approval for a parking lot. It is hoped that a mutually agreeable plan can be decided that helps both the library and other buildings in the historic district. Everyone will likely have to give a little to make that happen.
Old Town Center Historic District boundaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussed the Newington Town Center historic district boundaries and the error that appears in the map that was used in the 2010-2020 Master Plan. The area with the Transfer Station is not part of the local historic district and not part of the National Register district. See attached maps. • Chris Cross indicated that the correct map will need to be approved at Town Meeting 2021 because it is in the zoning ordinance. • That gives us a year to think about the pros and cons of adding the Old Town Forest Lot and/or the Transfer Station lot to the historic district. • NB (not discussed but think about): If we go to all the effort to correct the map and/or add new areas to the Historic District, we should also review the Historic District zoning ordinance to see if it needs to be updated. That said, this is lots of work and there needs to be a compelling advantage to do anything other than to correct the inaccurate map.

Cultural Resources Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1979/81 Cultural Resources Report was dug out of the History Society closet. Whew, it exists! • There is a map of cultural resources in Newington that were deemed significant 40 years ago and a discussion of their significance. • This map, inventory, and discussion needs to be updated and included in the 2020-2030 Master Plan. Without more specifics about what cultural resources the HDC feels are meaningful, the Master Plan is too vague and potentially of little value wherever cultural resources are mentioned.
Minutes	Chris Cross and Lulu Pickering approved the minutes of the HDC January meeting.

Lulu Pickering, HDC Member
February 19, 2020

Tree Cutting Work areas





Culturally sensitive archeological area -
potential burials

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

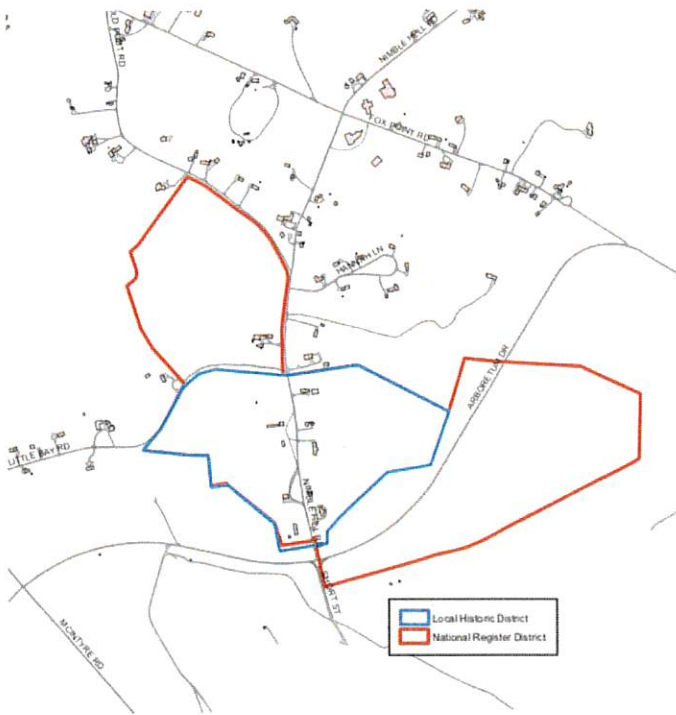
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Newington Center Historic District

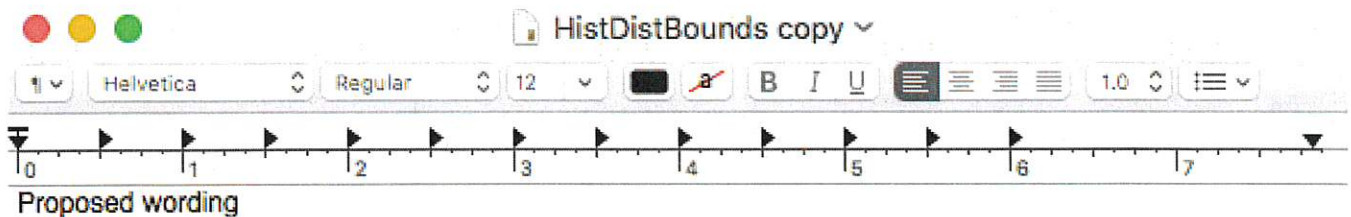


Local Historic District



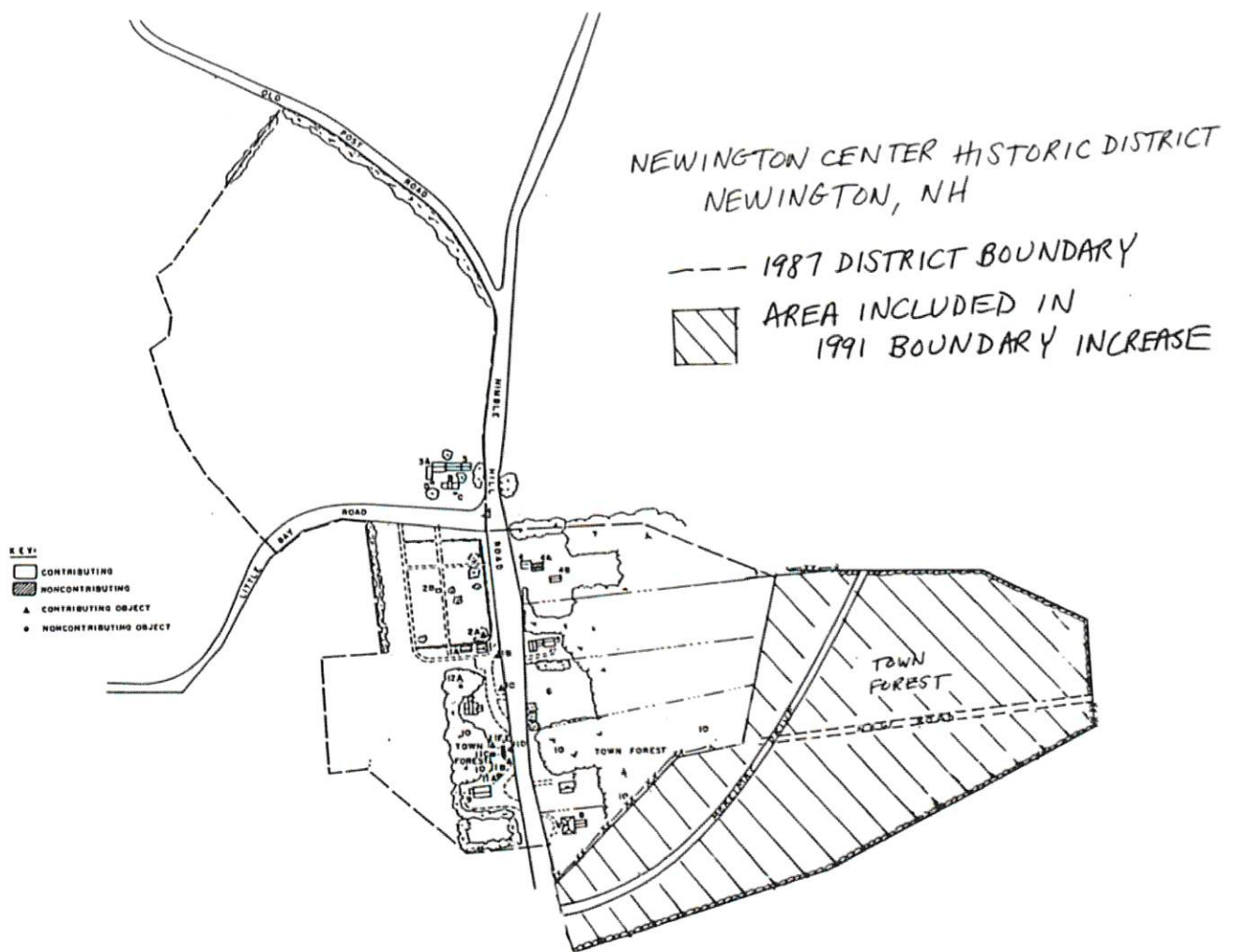
Master plan map is incorrect
The blue area for the local old town center historic district includes the Transfer Station - it was never included in the district warrant article

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We agree that our map of the Historic District should not have included the transfer station property. However the entire Historic District, the town garage and the transfer station comprise a single lot. The exact boundaries have never been defined. The natural boundary for the transfer station would be the lip of the pit itself, with a small buffer at the top of the slope. The description of the Historic District states that "the boundary ... is drawn to include that acreage which survives from the original town center and which is eligible for listing ..." The trees extend from the cemetery to the edge of the pit, where there is a fifty foot drop in elevation. We will endeavor to survey and accurately define these bounds in the near future.

In 2008, David Hislop surveyed the entire Map 24 Lot 6 area to show the boundaries of the existing conditions, see plan D-36274 filed at Rockingham County deeds.



The boundaries of the town forest
and the Frink Farm
are in the National Register district
but are not in the local old town
center historic district