

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES for January 8, 2020

(Corrections added 1/31/2020)

HDC Attendees: Lulu Pickering, Chris Cross, Ted Conner

Other Attendees: Theresa Walker – Rockingham Planning Commission

Denis Hebert – Newington Planning Board-(Chair)

Topic: Discussion of Newington Master Plan Historic Resources Chapter - 1st DRAFT

1. Chris Cross initiated the meeting with introduction of Theresa Walker known by some already through her many years of work as a regional planner for the Rockingham Planning Association. The Planning Board has contracted with the Rockingham Planning Association (RPC) to organize and draft each chapter and in particular to provide maps and material pre-collected for Rockingham county.
2. Chris stated how the Newington Master Plan (NMP) for 2020-2030, like Newington's previous master plans, is being updated in-house by the Planning Board and Town Planner with input from other town boards, citizen surveys, and citizen focus groups. The effort is in its third year and follows the NH RSA direction for content and arrangement of local master plans. This ten-year update will be significantly downscaled summarizing Newington's progress to date more in maps, tables, and graphically with a focus on core Town's intentions for future development. The core summary, although brief, will identify references or attached appendix sections for details of significant interest to Newington.
3. The remainder of the meeting was spent discussing the draft historic resource section emphasizing items missing or that could be better stated.
 - a. Chris provided several changes as redlines. Lulu identified several incomplete roles and exchanges in the introduction; she later provided by e-mail redline clarifications to the HDC and historic society, and CLG roles. All felt is important to recognize that there are multiple groups/boards in town that need to coordinate if the history of Newington is to be preserved as something unique to bind the town residents. Lulu's e-mail materials were incorporated by Theresa and the PB Master Plan Committee later in January at their subcommittee meeting.

- b. Lulu identified several misconceptions with various Historic Zoning districts in the town; clarifications were provided by e-mail and like the historic zoning was corrected to incorporate the zones
 - c. The group discussed that the section listing historic buildings. This list needs review to remove demolished buildings and add more recently eligible buildings for historic status features. This will be a recommendation to accomplish in the future and the current list placed into a historic annex. The later will retain much of the historic structure details in the current and past master plans.
 - d. Lulu noted that the future draft as well as current master plan had failed to bring out that a town's history was not just buildings, but an evolving cultural heritage. While many "historic structures" have long been removed or broken down, the heritage of what used to take place at a site or occurred as the prevailing focus of life in Newington during a period of time warranted inclusion in the chapter. She suggested listing such heritage sites (such as brickyards, shipyards, ferry landings, cider and saw mills) or noting specific periods of activity that prevailed in the town be added.
- 4. After further discussions, the members agreed to share revisions to the Historic Resource section of the Master Plan and to work together over the next year to complete a recommendation in the chapter to update the historic building list and related cultural periods for inclusion in the historic resource appendix.
- 5. The next meeting of the HDC is planned for the usual third Wednesday in February. Topics TBD, but think about a historic project you want to work on.

Attachments:

- 1. NMP Historic Resource Chapter – Pre-meeting Draft (Redlined)
- 2. NMP Historic Resource Chapter – Post meeting Update

Submitted by Chris Cross, HDC member