

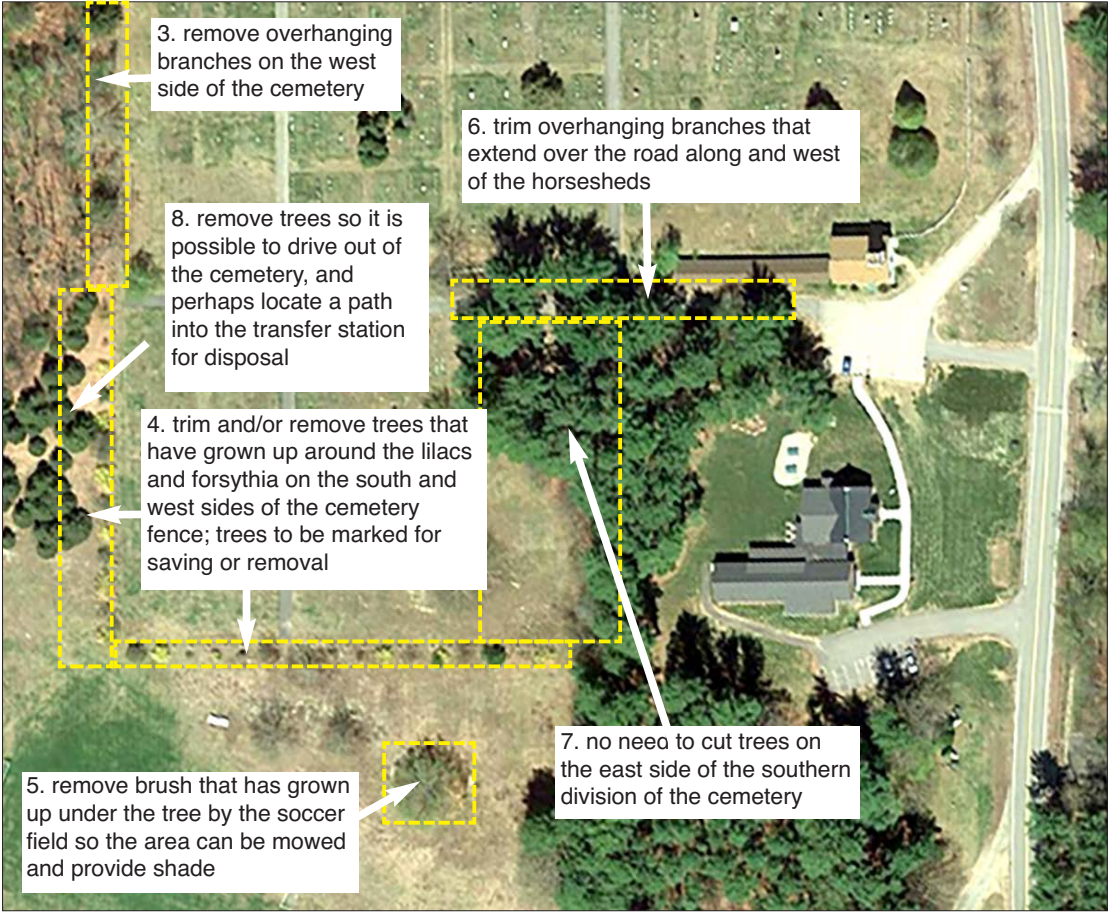
# Newington Historic District Commission – Minutes

December 14, 2020, 10:34 – 11:46 a.m.

Old Town Hall

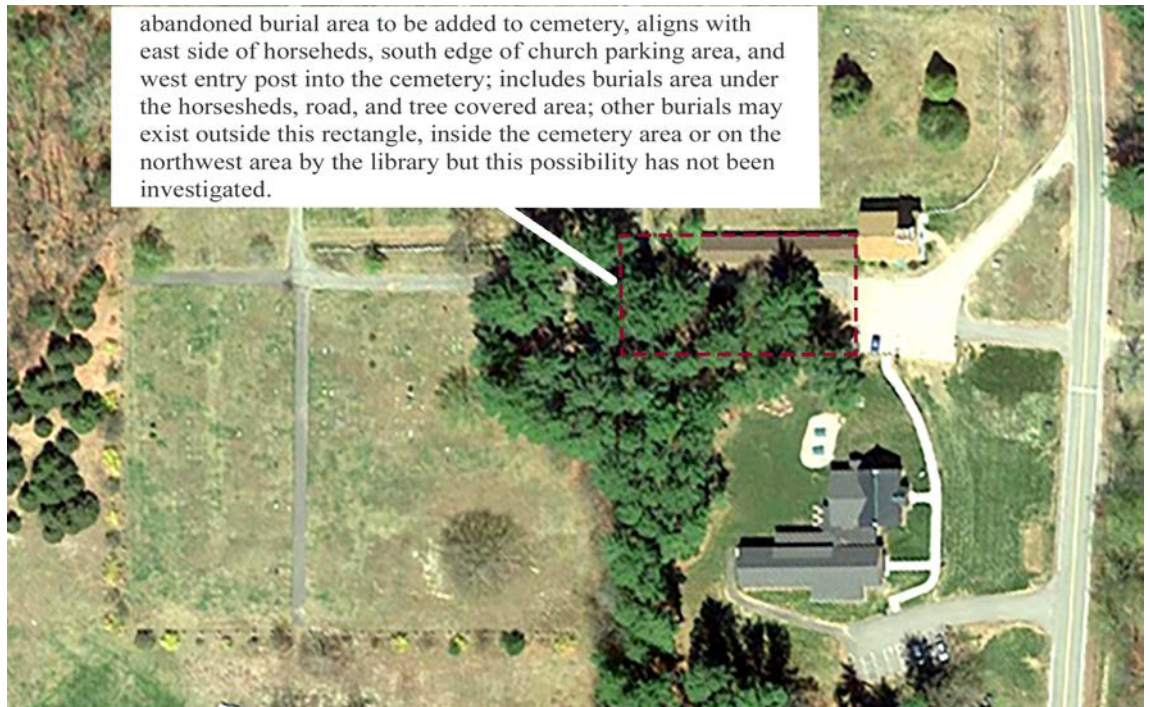
Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mike Marconi Member (2020)</li> <li>✓ Jo Haskell Alternate (2023)</li> <li>✓ John Lamson Member (2021)</li> <li>✓ Peggy Lamson Member (2023)</li> <li>✓ Katie Moody Alternate (2023)</li> <li>✓ Lulu Pickering Member (2023)</li> <li>Becky St. Germaine Alternate (2023)</li> <li>✓ Kristen Poulin Alternate (2023)</li> <li>✓ Alan Wilson Member (2022)</li> </ul>
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved minutes of November 16, 2020 – motion by Peggy Lamson, seconded by Katie Moody, unanimous</li> </ul>
HDC 2020 budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Send Marth Roy a highlighted version of our November meeting and ask her to make copies for the next selectmen's meeting so they can decide whether the HDC can spend the \$1300 remaining in our 2020 budget.</li> <li>• Selectmen have not yet discussed 2021 warrant articles, which may include Mike Marconi's idea of a \$5,000 warrant article for the unmarked grave memorial across from the horsesheds.</li> </ul>
2020 tree cutting projects	<p>Selectmen want to follow through on the tree cutting projects remaining for 2021, money to be encumbered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove stumps in front of Old Stone School</li> <li>2. Remove stumps on the north side of the Old Parsonage</li> <li>3. Remove overhanging branches on the west side of the cemetery</li> <li>4. Trim and/or remove trees that have grown up around the lilacs and forsythia on the south and west sides of the cemetery fence; trees to be marked for saving or removal</li> <li>5. Remove brush that has grown up under the tree by the soccer field so the area can be mowed and provide shade</li> <li>6. Trim overhanging branches that extend over the road along and west of the horsesheds</li> <li>7. No need to cut trees on the east side of the southern division of the cemetery right now</li> <li>8. Remove trees so it is possible to drive out of the cemetery, and perhaps locate a path into the transfer station for disposal</li> <li>9. The trees in the abandoned grave area (proposed memorial garden) can be ignored until it is sorted out whether the selectmen, cemetery trustees, or library trustees are involved.</li> </ol>



	 <p>3. remove overhanging branches on the west side of the cemetery</p> <p>6. trim overhanging branches that extend over the road along and west of the horsesheds</p> <p>8. remove trees so it is possible to drive out of the cemetery, and perhaps locate a path into the transfer station for disposal</p> <p>4. trim and/or remove trees that have grown up around the lilacs and forsythia on the south and west sides of the cemetery fence; trees to be marked for saving or removal</p> <p>5. remove brush that has grown up under the tree by the soccer field so the area can be mowed and provide shade</p> <p>7. no need to cut trees on the east side of the southern division of the cemetery</p>
<p>Abandoned burial sites</p>	<p>The idea has been to create a memorial area with surrounding stonewall to improve the abandoned burial area that exists outside the cemetery walls. The selectmen are worried about real estate devaluation in the commercial and industrial zones, tax abatements, and the possibility of more donor towns to fund education in other areas of NH. What can be done at little to no cost?</p> <p><b>Option 1</b> Simply put up a marker designating the area as an unmarked burial area.</p> <p>pro: minimal expense, minimal action to take</p> <p>con: arguments continue about potential other land uses, does nothing to improve the area around the burials</p> <p><b>Option 2</b> Append the area to the town cemetery under the oversight of the cemetery trustees.</p> <p>pro: minimal expense, long term preservation of burials</p> <p>con: delays memorial garden improvements, requires warrant article at town meeting to designate this area as part of the cemetery, transfers oversight to cemetery trustees away from the selectmen (and potentially the library trustees for the southern strip of the area).</p> <p><b>Motion 1</b> by John Lamson, seconded by Peggy Lamson, unanimous approval:</p> <p>To request the selectmen put forth a warrant article to designate the abandoned burial area by the horsesheds as an addition to the town cemetery for the purpose of permanently preserving the burial sites, with the understanding that the cemetery trustees are the oversight body for the abandoned burial area and the selectmen are the oversight body for the preservation of the horsesheds.</p>



The map below shows the rectangular area surrounded by red dashed lines to be appended to the cemetery.



Land under library trustee oversight

It is still unclear what land is under the oversight of the library trustees. A warrant article about 1925 gave the trustees a 100-foot buffer from the original building for landscaping purposes; later during the construction of the new addition and parking area, a town selectman is said to have extended the 100-foot buffer from the sides of the new addition. Only word of mouth has given the library trustees complete oversight of this buffer for any purpose.

For everyone's benefit the boundaries of the land under oversight by the library trustees should be officially designated by a warrant article at town meeting. Every cemetery expansion over the centuries has been done by warrant article. It should be clear and obvious which entity (selectmen, library, cemetery) oversees which area in the historic district, and it should not be necessary to rely on word of mouth, old meeting minutes, or different interpretations.

In light of Motion 1 above to designate land in the historic district to the oversight of the cemetery trustees, John Lamson made the motion, seconded by Peggy Lamson, unanimous approval, to likewise officially designate land in the historic district to the oversight of the library trustees as follows:

**Motion 2: To request the selectmen meet with the library trustees to agree to the boundaries of the land under the oversight of the library trustees, with the purpose of submitting a warrant article to townspeople at town meeting.**

- The HDC desires that the abandoned burial area in Motion 1 be overseen by the cemetery trustees for the longterm preservation of the burials. The fate of the land under the cannon on the north side of the Veterans Memorial area is up to the selectmen and trustees, but once decided and voted at town meeting, the boundaries of the land under the oversight of the library trustees should be clearly identified on a plan with the corners marked so everyone can stay clear of arguments about who can do what and where. Preferably the plan should be filed at Rockingham County registry of deeds and the corners marked with permanent markers, usually surveying stakes made of rebar.



Newington Historical Society	<p>For the Bonfire event, it was decided (Kristen Poulin, Katie Moody, Jo Haskell, Lulu Pickering):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the weather is rainy, the event will be pushed ahead one day to Monday.</li> <li>• Shirley Frank and Peggy Lamson have donated individually wrapped cookies and cheese crackers.</li> <li>• People can bring what they want to drink.</li> <li>• Next year we will expand the food/drink idea if the bonfire is successful.</li> <li>• Jo Haskell would like to have music provided by an accordion player who could circulate around the fire; not sure if he would consider coming for free.</li> <li>• Masks are requested but no one is going to police.</li> <li>• Social distancing can be helped using 30-40 hay bales placed around the fire at 8-foot distances – great for sitting on but not to be burned – the cows would not be happy.</li> <li>• Kristen Poulin and boys will help transport hay bales.</li> <li>• Jo Haskell and Katie Moody will help arrange hay bales.</li> <li>• Will Gilbert and Lulu Pickering transported plenty of pallets, no other wood is necessary.</li> <li>• Many thanks and much appreciation to Rockingham Electric and Emery Farm for the pallets.</li> <li>• The bonfire should burn completely so no cleanup of half burned wood is necessary.</li> <li>• Ask Pat Moynihan for permit and help with putting out the ashes.</li> <li>• A magnet will be used to pick up all the nails and staples from the pallets once the ashes are cool.</li> <li>• Lulu Pickering wants to thank Will Gilbert for his 3 hours of help in moving furniture around the old schoolhouse museum room to make that space more functional for meeting and work sessions during Covid-19 times.</li> </ul>
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Lulu Pickering  
HDC Member  
December 14, 2020