

## Historic District Commission Meeting

February 25, 2003  
At Newington Town Hall

Attending: Barbara Hill, Barbara Myers, Winnie Welch, Jan Stuart, Laura Coleman, Pam Blevins.

Absent: Gail Pare

Also attending: Lulu Pickering

4:05 PM. Minutes of January 21, 2003 were approved as written.

Correspondence was reviewed, including a notice from the NHDOT regarding a March 5, 2003 public hearing on the Newington ramp improvements at the Spaulding Turnpike.

Laura Coleman briefed the commission on the warrant articles to be presented at the March 15 Town Meeting. The Budget Committee and the Selectmen approved articles 13 and 14, relating to the Old Stone School and the Old Town Hall. These articles were to fund money for an engineering study and structural improvements to allow the use of the buildings by the townspeople.

Jan Stuart gave the commission a report on the code requirements on ADA compliance and current building codes.

Barbara Hill talked about the recent Newington survey and how the historic resources were supported in the survey.

Barbara Hill discussed the quick claim deed Newington received from the Air Force for the Old Stone School. There was mention of the NHSPO and the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation as grantees along with Newington for the stewardship of the building and the covenants placed in the deed.

There was a discussion of what needs to be done at the Old Stone School and the Old Town hall, using an engineering study and bringing the buildings up to code so the buildings can be open for use by adults. The Historic District area could serve as a recreation area and a social area for the groups in town.

The Newington Neighbor has donated \$100 for an application for Preservation Project Development Grants. This would apply for a preservation consultant to assess the needs of the buildings. Help was offered with the additional funds if needed.

It was voted that Barbara Hill and Charlie Smart would work with SHPO to start planning for the repairs of the historic buildings.

The status of the lease for the Old Town Forest was reviewed. Evidently Portsmouth has waived the management of Arboretum Drive. The proposed lease with the PDA is for 20 years although the MOA that Newington has with the Air Force is in perpetuity.

At this time the Historic District Commission needs to plan its own vision for the and maintenance of the historic structures in Newington Historic District. This will help determine the direction that Newington will go for the next 10 or 20 years. If maintaining a rural and historic character is to be important, the HDC needs to articulate that and to assume the stewardship of what will be done in Newington. Since the Planning Board is rewriting the Master Plan for Newington now, it is important for the Historic District Commission to voice the importance of the historic resources and the historic character.

Adjourn: 5:30 PM

Next meeting: March 25, 2003

Barbara D. Hill  
Recorder