

Historic District Minutes

October 23, 2001

Attending: Barbara Hill, Barbara Myers, Suzie Carmichael, Laura Coleman, Gail Pare, Jack O'Reilly, Selectman

Absent: Winnie Welch, Pam Blevins

Also, Tom Morgan, Town Planner

4:10 PM Correspondence: Archival pictures of the Louis DeRochemont property taken by TRC as part of their MOA with the NH Division of Historic Resources were accepted and placed in the DeRochemont file. The MOA was required as the Industrial Road project for the Con Edison power plant construction.

A letter from Carol Murray, Commissioner of NHDOT was discussed, regarding the lease of the Bloody Point property where the railroad station is located in the Newington Historic District. She mentioned an option of Temporary Use Agreement for an indefinite term. Newington is concerned about the deteriorating condition of the building and the trash around the site. Newington wishes to stabilize the building and to have some interest in the developing plans for the reconstruction of the Little Bay bridge site.

A Memorandum to the Planning Board and the HDC from the Office of State Planning notified Newington of a Coastal Planning Grant, regarding eligible projects for restoration. Barbara Hill will review the eligibility list and report back to the Commission. If the railroad station is eligible, the Commission needs proposals for the restoration and use of the area. Gail Pare will continue to investigate other restoration grants.

There was a letter from Mr. Bartlett, PDA Chairman on October 3, 2001 regarding the negotiations for the protection of the Newington Old Town Forest. The Selectmen and Malcolm McNeill, Town Counsel, are in discussion and will keep the HDC informed.

Painting of the Old Parsonage has been completed. Now there needs to be drainage around the foundation, which will divert water from the roof away from the building.

At the Meeting House the Steeple has been evaluated and the outside has been painted. The bulkhead needs to be replaced and perhaps some of the shrubbery will need replanting.

The MBTE cleanup at the Town Garage continues, but the Selectmen do not have permission to improve and pave the area yet.

The possibility of an LCHIP grant to make the Old Stone School code compliant was discussed and will be investigated.

Larry Wahl, Newington Fire Chief, has inspected the second floor of the Old Town Hall and has limited the occupancy to 10 people at this time. The bathrooms and septic system at the Old Town Hall need attention. It was felt by the Commission that the upstairs with its stage would provide good space as a studio or practice hall for small groups.

No notice has been received from NHDHR regarding the current CLG grant. Since the year is getting late and town funds cannot be encumbered without a contract before the end of the year, beginning the grant may be a problem. The November meeting will decide. Nancy Bibbins has said that we could count volunteer hours and travel from September 1, 2001, if the rest of the grant can be timely. Several samples of apples have been taken to UNH Cooperative Extension for identification.

The town has received a final check of \$700 from NHDHR for the previous CLG grant. The total reimbursement was \$7900 with enough volunteer in-kind matches so the project did not cost the town money.

Tom Morgan took pictures of the HDC for the Newington web site. He will post the current HDC minutes on the site and archive past minutes from January 2001. A motion to allow the posting of HDC minutes on the web was approved.

The current HDC budget was reviewed and the 2002 budget will be passed at the November meeting after a decision has been made about the Historic Apple Orchards Survey grant has been decided.

The minutes of September 18, 2001 were approved as read.

There was some discussion about the Newington Town Seal which has a date, "Incorporated 1764". At some point this needs to be determined because the town was established in 1714 when the Governor changed 'Bloody Point' parish to the town of Newington. There is no record in Concord of Newington being incorporated.

HB522, regarding allowing towns to provide tax adjustments to properties with historic agricultural buildings was discussed. Jack O'Reilly will investigate how this might apply to Newington property owners.

Next meeting: November 20, 2001 at 4 PM.

Adjourn: 5:30 PM

Barbara Hill, Recorder