

## Historic District Commission Meeting

November 19, 2002

Attending: Barbara Hill, Barbara Myers, Gail Pare, Laura Coleman, Winnie Welch, Jan Stuart, Suzie Carmichel, Pam Blevins.

4:03 PM Minutes approved as read.

Correspondence was acknowledged.

Brown's River Bindery, Essex, Vermont sent a proposal and a scope of work for a preservation plan of the Newington Town Records. Bill Stewart had reviewed the condition of the Newington records in 1990, but nothing was done at that time. The scope of work included the cost of conserving of 11 volumes and amounted to about \$12 000. After some discussion about the microfilming, other volumes that may surface and budget constraints, it was decided to place a line item in the HDC budget to begin a conservation program for town documents. It was voted to submit an amount of \$6 000 to begin the first year.

Suzie and Gail will take charge of deciding which volumes to begin conserving and help search for any missing volumes or other town records.

The HDC budget was voted: \$100.00 for operational expenses, including a membership in the Preservation Alliance and \$ 6 000.00 for the first year of a conservation program for town records.

The newly enacted law RSA 79 was created last July to provide municipalities with discretionary authority to grant property tax relief to property owners having historic agricultural structures. The structures must be significant, at least 75 years old and the owners must be willing to maintain and repair the structures for at least 10 years. If so they may apply to the town for abatement between 25% and 75%. The HDC voted to endorse the adoption of RSA 79 by the town. Furthermore, the HDC is willing to act as facilitators to help with the process. There will be a need to have a photographer for documenting and establishing the conditions of the eligible barns in Newington.

The NH Farmland Protection Program has funding available for 2003. This is state program with federal funds available to assist farm owners with the purchase of conservation easements.

Barbara Myers and Barbara Hill met with Simone Massey from Malcolm McNeil's office regarding the lease of the Old Town Forest from the PDA. Simone was given additional information about the boundaries of the Old Town Forest. Since the PDA has not done a

survey of that acreage, other documentation was needed to establish boundaries before the lease is acceptable.

The HDC received a letter from the Selectmen that since the Open Space Committee has obtained its' objectives, there is no longer any need to meet regularly.

The tabled motion regarding trailers in the Historic District was removed since the proposal is no longer an issue.

The next meeting will be in January.

Adjourn at 5:37 PM

Barbara Hill, Recorder