

Newington Historic District Commission – draft MINUTES

October 13, 2020, 9:30 a.m. – 11:08 am

Town Hall

Members	<div>Mike Marconi Member (2020)</div> <div>√ Jo Haskell Alternate (2023)</div> <div>√ John Lamson Member (2021)</div> <div>√ Peggy Lamson Member (2023)</div> <div>Katie Moody Alternate (2023)</div> <div>√ Lulu Pickering Member (2023)</div> <div>√ Becky St. Germaine Alternate (2023)</div> <div>Kristen Poulin Alternate (2023)</div> <div>Alan Wilson Member (2022)</div>
General Sullivan Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Discussed next steps in the historic mitigation process under Section 106. The town's position has been that Newington should own the Bloody Point historic district property and the state should fix the building and surrounding land so it can be used as a town park.On a motion by John Lamson (second by Becky St. Germaine, unanimous approval), it was decided that the HDC ask the selectmen to engage the help of our congressional delegations at the state and federal levels. Without their help, Newington is not in a position to impact NH DOT's actions in this matter.Newington's Historic District zoning regulations are not robust if the state sells its property in the Bloody Point historic district and the buyer wants to build a McMansion there.
CLG grant notice	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Letter of Intent is due to NH DHR by November 15th about participation in the 2020 grant cycle.On a motion by John Lamson (second by Peggy Lamson, unanimous approval), it was decided to not participate in the grant process this year but to revisit the opportunity next year.
Railroad Depot / Old Stone School	<ul style="list-style-type: none">These two buildings are most at risk of Newington's historic resources.What happens at the Railroad Depot is largely out of our hands, so asking for congressional help is key.The Old Stone School, on the other hand, should be addressed; it is owned by the town.The HDC will hold monthly meetings for a period of time to discuss what is a reasonable approach and how to engage townspeople in any undertaking.

Status historic districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All municipally owned land and buildings are outside the Historic District Regulations of the Newington Zoning Ordinance. • In a nutshell, both of our historic districts are virtually exempt from HDC oversight because of town and state ownership. The HDC is a “nice to have” but not an essential partner in all but 4, maybe 5, private properties. • Newington’s Historic District zoning regulations are not robust if the Congregational Church sells the new parsonage.
2020 project update	<p>Slavery burial area project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An archeologic dig at a grave site can be done at any time in the future, protect the area now. • Grant funding is risky, if the grant is not funded, the budget cycle may be lost for a year. • \$20,000 Eversource money is available. • A stone wall around the area to be preserved is possible with the stones the HDC has been collecting. • Tree cutting should be the town’s responsibility. • Markers are important educational tools. <p>Cemetery project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tree cutting proposal in the south division of the cemetery along the stone wall behind the library is too large a project for the town crew to handle. • The town crew has removed two-year old stumps behind the Old Stone School and Veterans’ monuments (Thank you!), but others still remain behind the old parsonage and in front of the old stone school. • The HDC requested \$5,000 in 2019 and another \$5,000 (for a total of \$10,000) in 2020 for tree cutting and planting money. The amounts were put in the selectmen’s budget and not spent on HDC projects. • Pounding your head against the wall to try to get these projects done has lost its appeal.
Approve minutes	Minutes of September 9, 2020 meeting were approved on a motion by Peggy Lamson, seconded by John Lamson, unanimous vote.
Approve CLG report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walked through the different sections of the annual CLG grant due to the NH Division of Historic Resources on October 31, 2020. • The annual report was approved on a motion by John Lamson, seconded by Peggy Lamson, unanimous vote. • Inventory information for nine historic properties were updated for the town inventory of historic and cultural resources; 7 of these had public outreach activities through articles in the <i>Newington Neighbor</i>. • An inventory of historical markers about town would be a valuable addition to the town inventory of historic and cultural resources. • Eight public outreach activities also took place through articles in the <i>Newington Neighbor</i> to provide information to residents about historic and

	<p>preservation activities in town – in addition to the 7 property inventory updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Historic Newington event of 2019 was well received by townspeople, but due to Covid-19, the next one will have to wait until 2021. • The HDC agreed to step outside its role as a land use board to promote and deliver other public programs in town to engage townsfolk in our history and many historic buildings and cultural resources.
Next year budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HDC budget is due by Oct. 19th and will be discussed with the selectmen on Oct. 26th. • Preliminary discussions agreed to a basic budget of \$4,800: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$3,000 special project \$1,000 document processing and archiving \$ 500 artifacts and Historic Newington hangings \$ 300 operating expenses
Adjourn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On a motion by Peggy Lamson, seconded by Jo Haskell, unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 am.

Lulu Pickering
HDC Member
October 13, 2020