

Town of Newington, NH
Historic District Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 9th, 2023

Present: HDC Members John Lamson, Peggy Lamson, Alan Wilson, John Chamberlain, Building Inspector Jeremy Boston and Resident Wil Gilbert.

J. Lamson explained that there weren't enough HDC members at the meeting to have a quorum, so the meeting will just be a business meeting with no votes.

J. Lamson listed six issues that the HDC should be looking at during 2023.

- The HDC needs to fill the Chair and member vacancies
- Additional guidelines need to be developed so that future developers will know what they are getting into if they plan to do any outside changes in the Historic District
- The future of the Stone School- The HDC needs to be represented during these discussions and should have substantial input.
- The future of the Railroad Station at Bloody Point-The HDC should also be represented during these discussions.
- The sale of the new parsonage-The HDC needs to engage the new owners, if only with a letter.
- Subdivision development in the Historic District-Any development in the Historic District needs approval of the HDC

The Committee needs to decide the frequency of meetings in 2023. J. Lamson thought that one a quarter would be enough and additional meetings could be added if needed.

The HDC is also responsible for the maintenance of the monuments and cannons in town.

J. Lamson pointed out that public owned property doesn't have to follow HDC rules, but the HDC gives them guidelines. J. Lamson thought it will be important to engage the residents and neighbors before anything is decided about the future of the Stone School. It is important to not engage a contractor who would go in a direction that the Town wouldn't like. The

HDC will be part of the Stone School discussion at a future Board of Selectmen meeting. J. Lamson would like to be part of that discussion as the Chair of the Budget Committee, P. Lamson will attend the meeting to represent the HDC.

John Chamberlain entered the meeting at 9:52am.

J. Lamson explained that the HDC now had a quorum, so decisions could be made and votes could be taken.

Discussion ensued about appointing a Chair for the HDC.

Alan Wilson moved to nominate John Chamberlain as Chair of the Historic District Commission. P. Lamson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

J. Chamberlain said that he looks forward to leading the committee.

Discussion ensued about the members of the HDC. There are a total of seven seats, the Commission currently has 2 vacancies. J. Boston said that the architect reports have not come back yet for the Stone School. The State owns the railroad station at Bloody Point and has offered to sell it to Newington, but the Board of Selectmen said no because it would be too expensive. P. Lamson said that the Newington Historical Society, which is an independent group from the town.

W. Gilbert thought that the HDC should keep an eye on NH SB258 in 2023. This bill is relative to the disposal of highway or turnpike funded real estate.

The new parsonage is up for sale and it is important for the new owners to understand about the Historic District guidelines.

The committee encouraged Wil Gilbert to submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen if he would like to be appointed to the HDC.

W. Gilbert asked the HDC for permission to water all the plants in the Historic District in 2023, as he did in 2022 and to also build the bonfire for the December NHS event.

J. Lamson moved to endorse W. Gilbert watering the plants and building the bonfire. The HDC can only endorse, it is ultimately a Board of Selectmen decision. P. Lamson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

J. Lamson would like to commend the efforts of volunteers, like Lulu Pickering and Wil Gilbert, who maintain the plants in the Historic District.

Discussion ensued about the Tavern nights at the Old Parsonage. Bringing in younger residents and fostering a second generation. The meeting schedule. The HDC having official status as a Land Use Board.

Adjournment: P. Lamson moved to adjourn at 10:32am. J. Lamson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder