

Newington Historic District Commission

Working Session FINAL MINUTES

May 22, 2019

10:00 a.m.

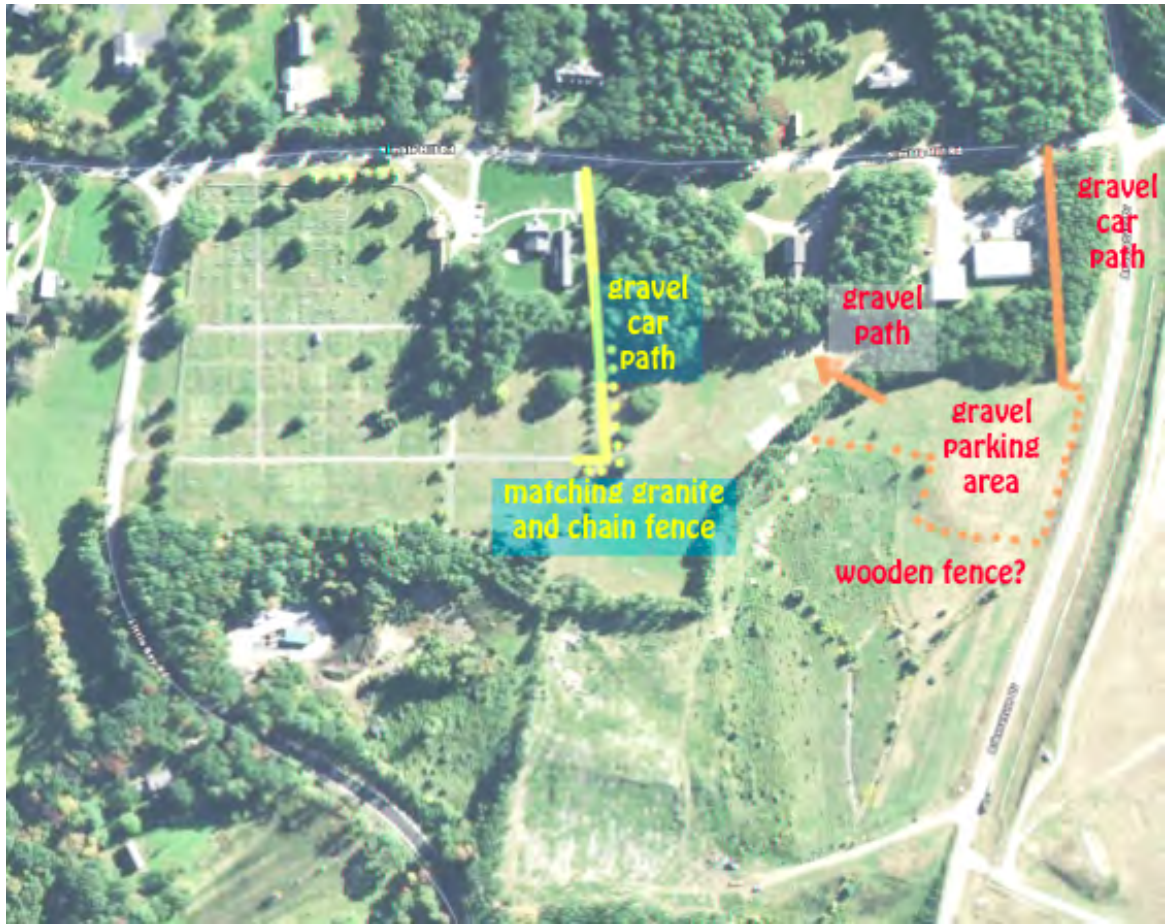
TOWN OFFICES

Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Ted Connors Member (2020) √ Christopher Cross Member (2020) NellAnn Hiatt Alternate (2020) John Lamson Member (2021) √ Lulu Pickering Member (2020) √ Maxine Mintz Pottier Member (2020) Alan Wilson Member (2022) – stopped by the next day
Welcome	On May 6, 2019, the selectmen appointed Alan Wilson to the HDC. Welcome aboard!
Meeting days and times	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HDC working sessions will be held the third Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. to discuss and work on projects. • Official meetings will likely be held at 6:00 p.m. depending on the purpose of the meeting.
Cemetery road extension	<p>Discussions during the January 2019 meeting introduced some new ideas about parking, cemetery access, and the need for water runoff management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cemetery can now be accessed from two roadways off Little Bay Road and two roadways off Nimble Hill Road. • Currently the entire Southern section of the cemetery is landlocked with only one dead-end path to access it. • Discussed the concept of opening the south cemetery chain fence at the end of the roadway and adding a new gravel path that would extend to the left and into the current library parking area. This path would allow folks to access the south extension of the cemetery without having to back around (see yellow lines in figure below). • A new fence (matching granite post and chain?) would need to be added to mark the border of the gravel road, or the existing fence could be moved over. • If the road is fairly wide, cars could also park along the length of it, which would add additional parking spaces. • This concept would use the existing Library road cut onto Nimble Hill Road. • Added July 17, 2019 during review of the minutes: <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chris Cross insertion: Identify that Lulu proposed a parking plan for the recreational fields that involved using the three accesses to the cemetery and adding a fourth gravel road into the library parking lot. Not all members agreed with the proposal. Chris strongly felt that it would bring traffic into the cemetery</i></p>

that would not provide the solemnness and respect due to those honored in the cemetery.

Maxine Pottier – wants to reserve approval pending further discussion.

Lulu Pickering – The minutes reflect an idea only, of which the HDC has had many over the last two years. So far, we have voted only to cut about 30 trees. Ideas can only be acted upon if the HDC has an official vote, which will be reflected in the minutes if and when that happens. The added gravel path from the south of the cemetery to the library would be for all townspeople to use, including those visiting the cemetery, not just for the recreational fields.



PDA parking option

- Discussed the concept of opening a path beside the town garage to access the flat portion of the hill owned by the PDA (see orange lines in above figure).
- This hill is currently open space, mowed, and has no trees or obstructions. It could be used as a new parking area adjacent to the recreational fields.
- Access from Arboretum Drive might be possible, but the PDA may not prefer that option.
- The selectmen could discuss an access and maintenance agreement with the PDA.

Water runoff from

Water runoff is a problem in several areas of the HDC, with ponding in front of the Old Stone School, Town Garage, Library, and Cemetery. Discussions included:

HDC District	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing the water issues before any plans are made for our Main Street concept. • Bringing in fill to increase the height of the lawn in front of the Old Stone School to keep the water at the road's edge. • Moving the position of the Veterans Monument area so the water that ponds by the Library can be addressed. • Addressing the water issues that cause ponding in the cemetery and water runoff toward Little Bay Road from the cemetery and Nimble Hill Road. • Lulu forgot to bring photos to the meeting, but some are attached to these minutes.
Cannon painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich Capolupo of Prime Coatings, Inc. will contact us again in a couple of weeks to take a look at the cannons and see what needs to be done.
Chris Cross Projects of interest in 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stonewalls in the historic district; plus be vigilant to obtain more rocks. • Church lot activities along New Road. • Perhaps remove the wire between the two posts to improve the entrance. • Perhaps use the cut tree logs by the Old Stone School to create natural log benches. • Discussed the need for walking trails.
Ted Connors projects of interest in 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eversource SRP Laydown area documents are not yet signed so final locations are not definite. A decision to remove the stumps by the Old Stone School and Old Parsonage should wait for about a month until the final laydown area(s) is decided • Many trees are being cut along the roadway and in the historic district. Chris Cross is concerned about the number of trees to be removed along the road on his property but not much can be done at this point in time. • Site walk will be scheduled so the HDC and selectmen can visit the Old Railroad Station (Newington's second historic district). • Lulu owes the selectmen a letter/memo about the General Sullivan Bridge.
Maxine Pottier projects of interest in 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will look into trail markers and history to be researched for sites of interest around town. Doug Ross sent an email about noteworthy trees in NH, including the state's largest black cherry tree, a common shag bark hickory (largest in Rockingham county), and a black locust. The black cherry is near the wooden chair to the right of the driveway of the former Kent home on Little Bay Road. • Discussed how to make Mott's Pond (next to the Cider Mill that is being renovated) more appealing. The surface gets covered with pollen and leaves, and the pond is no longer used for skating or fishing. Nature trails are appealing but although the pond is owned by the town, private property abuts most of it. • Discussed the need to improve the appearance of the Veterans' monument, remove overgrown trees, and improve the view from the Library. • Will investigate wooden plaques that could voluntarily be added to historic structures in town. • Investigate potential ground covers and flagstones for the two paths through the garden. Lillian Wilson is also interested and works on the rain garden.

Alan Wilson projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan was unable to attend the meeting but stopped by the next day. • Discussed columbarium ideas for the receiving tomb in the cemetery.
Adjourned	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About 11:45 a.m.

Lulu Pickering
 HDC Member
 May 30, 2019
 July 17, 2019 amended