

# Newington Historic District Commission – AGENDA

Tuesday May 15, 2018

3:30 p.m.

OLD TOWN HALL

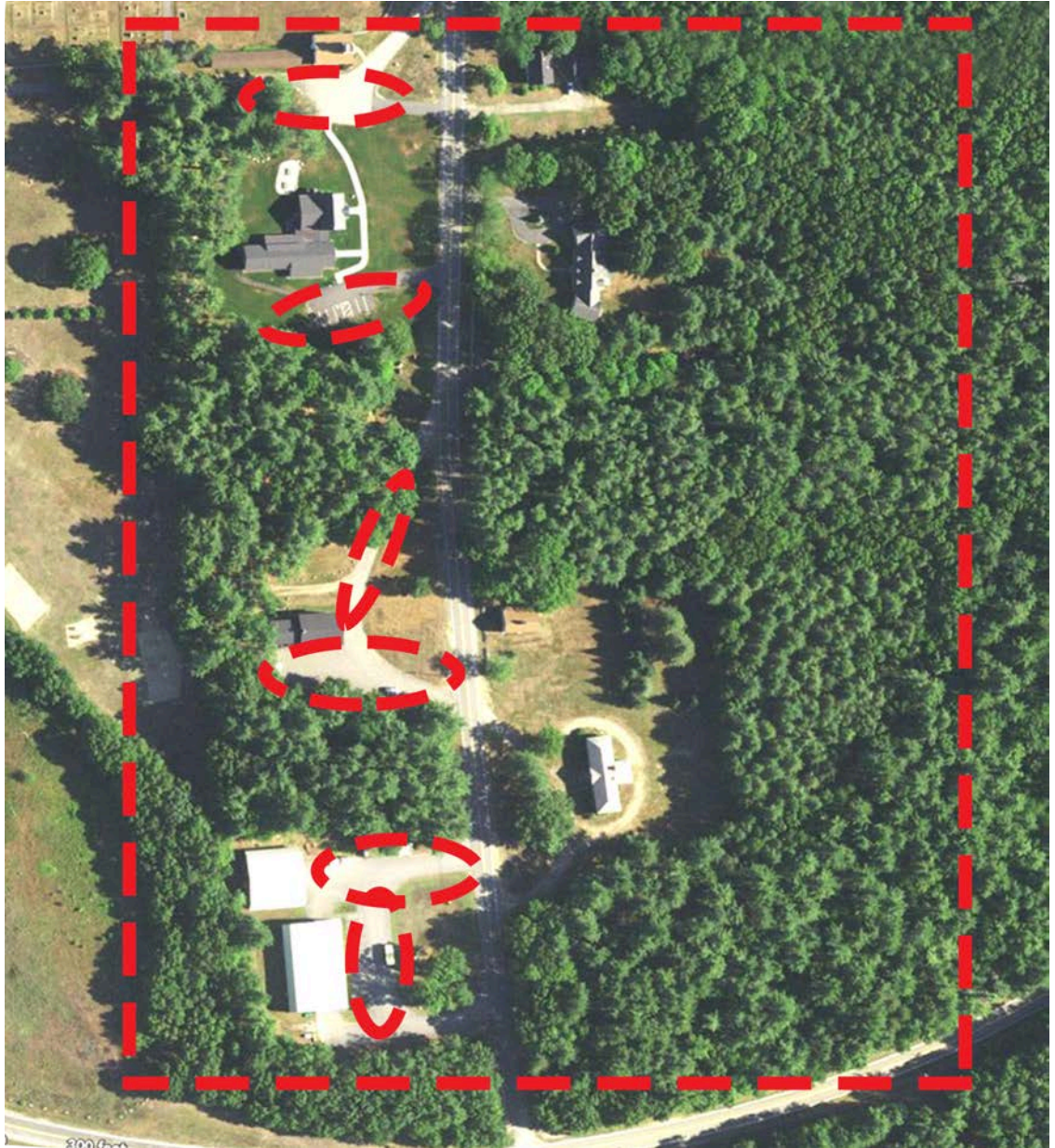
Members	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Ted Connors</td> <td>Member (2020)</td> <td>Selectmen representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Christopher Cross</td> <td>Member (2020)</td> <td>Planning Board representative</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Elaina D’Orto</td> <td>Member (2018)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Lamson</td> <td>Member (2018)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Edna Mosher</td> <td>Member (2021)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lulu Pickering</td> <td>Member (2020)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maxine Mintz Pottier</td> <td>Member (2020)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NellAnn Hiatt</td> <td>Alternate (2020)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Victoria Eversman</td> <td>Alternate (2020)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Ted Connors	Member (2020)	Selectmen representative	Christopher Cross	Member (2020)	Planning Board representative	Elaina D’Orto	Member (2018)		John Lamson	Member (2018)		Edna Mosher	Member (2021)		Lulu Pickering	Member (2020)		Maxine Mintz Pottier	Member (2020)		NellAnn Hiatt	Alternate (2020)		Victoria Eversman	Alternate (2020)	
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Old Town Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weather permitting, we will walk around the old town center so everyone can become familiar with what currently exists and what ideas can make it more people friendly and beautiful.</li> </ul>																											
Guests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>People are invited to join from the Meetinghouse, library, recreation committee, Historic Society, and anyone else who would like to provide ideas or encouragement!</li> </ul>																											

## APPENDIX – 2018 Project Plan for the Old Town Center (as of April 2018)

### Beautification of the Historic District and Creation of a Peoples Center

<b>Goal</b>	<p>Townfolk love Fox Point for its park-like environment, scenic views, and historic/ agricultural ambience. Our goal is to make the old Town Center a more people-friendly place with natural areas for people to sit, hike, and enjoy themselves. The intent is to not only beautify the Old Town Center but to make it more accessible and used by townfolk. At the same time, the intent is also that the Town will maintain the new areas, including any planted trees, bushes, flower gardens, etc. The area under discussion is the town-owned property shown inside the rectangle on the map (excluding the private property).</p>
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**Map**



**Parking**

- The map shows that there is already a significant amount of asphalt-covered land (red ovals) by the Church, Library, Old Town Hall, and Town Garage. The HDC favors keeping the existing green spaces and not expanding existing parking lots or adding more lots.

*Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:*

- Library Trustees would like to extend the paved parking lot by the library in 2019.
- Library Director monitors the parking area by her office and says it often fills up. She does not monitor the Meetinghouse lot.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Library Trustee Peter Welch does not favor signage to let patrons, who don't mind walking, know they can use the Meetinghouse lot.</li> <li>○ The HDC requests that the totality of this plan first be developed before a decision is made on parking.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The most intense parking in the old town center occurs in the fall when recreational soccer is active. A hundred or more people come to the games and practices and park in the parking areas or along Nimble Hill Road by the Old Town Hall, Old Parsonage, Old Stone School, and Library. The HDC favors widening the shoulder(s) along the road using gravel so cars can more easily park on a level surface. When events are not occurring the wider shoulders will make it safer for pedestrians, dogs, kids, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chris Cross discussed alternatives to gravel, which involved concrete with holes for grass to grow and fill in, for leveling the road shoulders for more parking. Peter Welch was concerned about maintenance, and Ted Connors about maintenance and cost.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● If more parking is needed, the HDC favors adding more gravel to the circular driveway that surrounds the Old Stone School and leveling it so cars can park around it. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Chris Cross discussed adding several small micro-lots around the whole area that could each accommodate only a couple of vehicles. Ted Connors was concerned about cost and maintenance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● The large rocks by the Old Town Hall keep vehicles off the grassy area. More rocks should be added so cars do not pull right up to the right wall of the Old Town Hall to park on the grass there.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lighting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A "Main Street" concept is intriguing for the section of Nimble Hill Road in the Historic District (e.g., the Old Parade). The roadway could be lined with historic lights to add ambience and light the way for evening events.</li> <li>● The lighting should be consistent across the various parking lots and roadway to provide the same "look and feel" no matter where you are. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The Library proposal to add two additional lights on their walkway was approved, the new lights are to match the existing ones.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>Tree cutting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Once tall pines are removed, it should be possible to see which of the remaining hardwood trees should be saved for branching out and growing. Oaks and maple will add beautiful fall color and help create a park-like environment.</li> <li>• Selective pine tree cutting should be done around the Old Parsonage and Old Stone School. Getting circulating air around the north side of the Old Parsonage will help with the moisture/mold problem.</li> <li>• All of the tall pine trees on the west side of Nimble Hill Road could be removed. They add nothing to the beauty of the area and pose a hazard to buildings during a storm.</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A forester from UNH Cooperative Extension can give suggestions about selective tree cutting.</li> <li>○ Phased cutting is an option so some trees have a chance to bush out and grow before others are selected for removal.</li> <li>○ Need winter color, so maybe do not create solely a hardwood park.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tree planting</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The border with Pease/Arboretum Drive is a problem. Trees do need to be thinned so the remaining ones can bush out. At the same time, a visual buffer needs to exist to block the Pease Airport District from the Old Town Center. Suggestions on quick growing hedges, arboretum trees, rhododendrons, lilacs, etc. are needed to see which will survive the deer and become effective screens.</li> <li>• Flowering trees should be planted for color – apple trees as in old Newington orchards?</li> <li>• The line of trees by the cemetery fence could be extended past the church, library, and old town hall to add beauty and shade in the summer.</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A forester from UNH Cooperative Extension can give suggestions.</li> <li>○ Need winter color, so maybe do not create solely a hardwood park.</li> <li>○ Watering is an issue. The line of maples near the cemetery fence have not done especially well in the gravel soil, with some already dying.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Stonewalls</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The West and South sides of the rectangle in the map surrounding the Old Town Center should be marked, preferably with a stonewall that adds an historic feature. A few old stones still exist behind the library. The area should be walked to investigate.</li> <li>• Alternatively, a granite post and chain fence already exists in the south part of the cemetery and something similar could be used.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Visual Features</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Currently, the bright summer sun and nowhere to sit limit outside activities. Visual features need to be added and people spaces designed with seating to encourage spending time outside.</li> <li>• The intent is to beautify the Old Town Center to make it more accessible and people friendly. At the same time, though, the intent is also that the Town will maintain the new areas, including any planted trees, bushes, flower gardens, etc.</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i></p> <p><b>F1 – Library rain garden</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No one is really overseeing the garden and the plants have not flourished. Lillian Wilson has been weeding it (Thank you!). As is, the garden does not add much functionally or aesthetically to the area.</li> <li>○ Recommend new plantings (not cattails) that can tolerate wet. Perhaps birches as in historic photos? Pussy willows? A seating arrangement with stones?</li> </ul> <p><b>F2 – Library patio</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A picnic table is put on the patio each summer.</li> <li>○ Bright sun is an issue; how to shade?</li> </ul> <p><b>F3 – Veterans monument area</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This visual feature could be improved with a flagstone patio with drainage, a surrounding rock wall of some sort, and spots to sit on the rocks or other seating.</li> </ul> <p><b>F4 – Meetinghouse</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Needs more than the stone for mounting a horse.</li> <li>○ For weddings or events, there is no outside feature or conveniences for enjoying the area or for photo opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Trails and markers</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, the Old Town Hall and soccer field provide recreational activities in the old town center.</li> <li>• Distinct trails could be laid out in various areas with educational trail markers.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Building Use</b></p>	<p><i>Discussed at the April 17 HDC meeting:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As part of this plan, better use of some of the buildings should be considered.</li> <li>○ If townspeople cannot access certain buildings most of the time, what is the point of having museums like the Old Town Hall or Old Parsonage. Preserving history for the future is great but people should also be able to enjoy the resources today.</li> </ul>