

Newington Historic District Commission – Draft Minutes

Tuesday June 19, 2018

3:30 p.m.

TOWN OFFICES

Members	<div><div>Ted Connors</div><div>Member (2020)</div></div> <div>✓ Christopher Cross</div> <div>Member (2020)</div> <div>Elaina D’Orto</div> <div>Member (2021)</div> <div>✓ John Lamson</div> <div>Member (2021)</div> <div>✓ Edna Mosher</div> <div>Member (2021)</div> <div>✓ Lulu Pickering</div> <div>Member (2020)</div> <div>✓ Maxine Mintz Pottier</div> <div>Member (2020)</div> <div>NellAnn Hiatt</div> <div>Alternate (2020)</div>
Committee Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Victoria Eversman resigned last December and is no longer on the Commission. We will miss her.
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chris Cross read his recommended changes to the March 20th draft minutes. (John Lamson motion for Lulu Pickering to sort through Chris’s comments and apply them as appropriate, Edna Mosher second, unanimous).Approved the minutes from March 20th, April 17th, May 15th, and May 21st
Newington Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As an officer of the Newington Historical Society, John Lamson indicated that the NHS is in the process of reorganizing, updating its plans/goals, and organizing its artifacts.The group wants townsfolk to understand that the NHS is an independent 501(c)(3) organization, distinct from the Town and the HDC. The NHS owns the artifacts; the Town owns the buildings; the HDC owns nothing, it is a planning board.That said, though, the NHS does want to work with other groups in Town that have overlapping historical interests. They do want to display artifacts, but first they need to get through their reorganization and planning steps.The HDC voted to support the NHS in its efforts to reorganize, and then curate and display its collection (motion by Maxine Pottier, seconded by Edna Mosher, unanimous approval).John Lamson collected \$5 each from Chris Cross, Edna Mosher, and Maxine Pottier, so they could become NHS members. Lulu Pickering is already a member from last Fall.

CLG Grant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NH DHR let us know that our CLG grant for the First Piscataqua River Bridge was not funded. They proposed visiting Newington to discuss future goals and plans. For now, the HDC wants to concentrate its efforts on other projects that could yield a more immediate benefit from the time and effort we invest. The CLG grant process is getting more competitive as more communities become CLGs, and funding remains limited.
Louis de Rochemont House	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laura Driemeyer of Preservation Company in Kensington, NH completed an Individual Inventory Form for the Louis deRochemont house located at 2061 Woodbury Avenue. We provided five historic photos and some brief history of the occupants. Of interest, the book <i>Snapshots: My Charmed Life</i> was written by Louis deRochemont 3rd's first wife Nicole with some firsthand accounts of some Newington people. NH DHR is in the process of reviewing the report that determined that the house was eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the development of educational and vocational opportunities for the developmental disabled. Additional archaeological work may be done around the house looking for artifacts. The HDC is most interested in locating the old barn foundation, remaining stone wall segments, house foundations, wells, etc., in order to preserve the stones for stone wall restoration projects in the Old Town Center. Recent correspondence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A commercial real estate broker has listed the property. The New Castle HDC has been wrestling with how to preserve historic buildings from major alterations or destruction. They believe one key is educating and working closely with the building inspector, so everyone has similar expectations on historic value and preservation.
Rain Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rain garden was created as part of the Langdon Library addition and restoration project in 2013. A \$6,500 Biopalooza grant through the Southeast Watershed Alliance and the UNH Stormwater Center paid to construct the garden. Another \$1,500 from the Conservation Commission's Beautification Fund paid for the plantings in 2014. Lee Lamson and Lillian Wilson have worked to keep the rain garden weeded, but most of the plantings have died. Chris Cross noted that it is flooded only twice a year and is dry the rest of the time. Edna Mosher suggests planting phragmites (common reed), which is a perennial grass that grows well in wet areas around town. The HDC does not want to repeat the same mistake with any plantings that are done throughout the historic center. It is especially

	<p>important that the Town budgets and maintains its landscaping and pocket garden features, and that someone is designated and responsible for that maintenance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maxine Pottier noted that some folks are interested in a garden club in town and may want to be involved.
Cannons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Pelletier made some chocks for the cannon wheels, and Len Thomas, Victor McLean, and Rick St. Laurent used the town backhoe to reposition the cannons and chocks on top of blocks to get them up off the ground. • The painting project is not a “restoration” project, just a preservation one. The color was previously researched and is good. • A couple of areas on one cannon have sharp rusted steel edges. Perhaps Lenny Thomas can remove the section with a blowtorch and sand the remaining edges smooth to remove the dangerous bits, before the painting is done. The goal is to stabilize them and make them safe. • The cannons are not owned by the town but by the federal government. On an historical note, after 9/11, Homeland Security sent people around to ensure that no cannons, such as ours, were operational.
Old Town Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Cross and the Planning Board have been working with Rockingham County Planning Commission to create maps from the last 70 years that show how land use in Newington has changed over the decades. These maps show how development and zoning have changed the landscape of Town. • The GPS coordinates of the boundary of the Old Town Forest will be added to the maps. • Some confusion might exist over acreage designated “historic.” Some historic parcels are in the official Newington Historic District (town meeting approved), other properties are listed on the National Register. These two things are not synonymous.
Rollins Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Rollins Farm is one of the oldest pieces of property along the Piscataqua River in Newington. It is located next to the old Shattuck Shipyard and the remnants of the WWI vessels that are still present along the shoreline. The Rollins family was quite wealthy and is related to a NH Governor named Rollins (Old Home Day). The land was a 1600s land grant that was owned by multiple generations of the family until it was sold to predecessors of Eversource. The company(ies) have held the property for decades as undeveloped land (waterfront, industrial, and residential zones) until now. • A Collier International sales flyer lists the “Rollins Farm” property for sale. A Request for Project Review through the Section 106

	<p>process has been received by NH DHR from a developer interested in purchasing the property. DHR reviewed the project and recommended further archaeological investigation, which would be required of the developer should they move forward with their plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The old farmland is largely reforested, and no buildings still stand but there is an old family cemetery. The HDC would like to have a history of the Rollins family and farm created, including locating the old foundations, driveways, historic elms, or whatever else may still exist in the woods. No one has walked through there for years. An archeological dig and mapping the location of stone walls, foundations, wells, and human endeavors would be worthwhile to preserve the history before any development obscures it. • HDC would like to preserve old stones for restoration work in the old town center.
Old Town Center plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Old Town Center Plan to “Create a Peoples Center, Beautify the Historic District, and Manage the Town Forest” is developing, but has a lot of moving parts. • However, it is important to designate some pieces of the plan for Phase I, so some of the work can be accomplished in 2018. • The HDC prioritized the area beside the Old Parsonage, behind the Old Stone School, and in front of the Town Garage for 2018 work. • The HDC makes the following recommendations to the Selectmen for 2018 work: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cut and clear the area in the corner by the Old Parsonage and Old Stone School to open up the space. This will involve cutting certain trees, removing debris, cleaning out dead wood, trimming branches, etc. 2. Remove the pines and sick maple in front of the Old Stone School. 3. Remove certain trees behind and beside the Old Parsonage. 4. Thin certain trees in the copse in front of the Town Garage. 5. Plant 8 new trees (12-15 feet tall) as part of an annual tree replanting schedule: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Red maple (red) – Maxine Pottier ▪ Horse chestnut (dark red) – Chris Cross ▪ European Beech (cooper or purple) – John Lamson ▪ Shagbark Hickory (yellow) – Lulu Pickering ▪ American Linden (late spring/fall color yellow) – Martha Roy ▪ Maiden Blush Apple – ▪ – Edna Mosher ▪ – Ted Connors

Forestry Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greg Jordan from UNH Extension mentioned that towns can adopt RSA:31 rules to establish a Forestry Committee to oversee and manage town forests, and a designated fund can also be established to manage costs and income. Such a Committee would replace the Board of Selectmen as managers of the town forests. • The HDC does not believe Newington needs a separate Forest Committee, and voted that the Selectmen, interested volunteers, and existing committees should continue their involvement (motion by Edna Mosher, seconded John Lamson, unanimous approval). • The HDC voted that a distinct line item should be added to the town budget for maintenance of the forests in the Historic District, including the Old Town Forest (motion by John Lamson, seconded Edna Mosher, unanimous approval). The suggested amount is \$10,000. • A yearly stipend of \$1,000 could be used to entice a Town Forrester to work with the HDC on proposed tree cutting and planting activities.
NH DHR/ Colorado SHPO on scope of HDC activities in NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not discussed.

Lulu Pickering
HDC Member
June 21, 2018