

Newington Historic District Commission – MINUTES

Tuesday July 17, 2018

3:30 p.m.

TOWN OFFICES

Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Ted Connors Member (2020) √ Christopher Cross Member (2020) Elaina D’Orto Member (2021) √ John Lamson Member (2021) √ Edna Mosher Member (2021) √ Lulu Pickering Member (2020) √ Maxine Mintz Pottier Member (2020) NellAnn Hiatt Alternate (2020)
Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved minutes from last meeting with no changes (motion by Edna Mosher, seconded by John Lamson, unanimous approval).
Member	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NellAnn Hiatt is an alternate on the HDC and is concerned about not being available for meetings in the afternoon. Chris Cross will touch bases with her to see if she would like to be involved with some of the ongoing projects.
Old Town Center plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Connors has the list of HDC recommendations for the selectmen to begin work this year on specific tree related activities in the triangle between the Old Parsonage, Old Stone School, and Town Garage (see June 19 HDC minutes). • The Town Budget has a section for Land Management that contains a \$1,000–line item for tree cutting. The Highway Department crew may be able to cut some of the trees, others may need to be contracted out for removal. Ted will follow through on how the work is accomplished. • Edna Mosher prompted a discussion on tree cutting costs because the highway department is pretty busy and may not be able to do all the tree cutting; outside tree cutting services can be expensive. Lulu Pickering would like to see a line item in the HDC budget for trees, so we can plan accordingly and know what money is available for HDC projects. John Lamson (also head of the Budget Committee) thinks all the tree cutting expenses are better kept in the land management section of the budget. • The consensus was that money exists for the work the HDC has recommended and the selectmen will see that the work is done this year.
Rain garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HDC would like to repurpose the library rain garden into a lily rain garden as long as no one from the library trustees or conservation commission objects.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robbi Washburn, a landscape architect, has said that rain gardens often turn into a bed of weeds from lack of attention, and many folks simply mow over them and let them become part of the lawn. • Edna Mosher had previously mentioned planting the perennial grass phragmites in the rain garden. It grows very well around town and state highway departments often plant it to help remove chemicals/oils from cars using the highway. She recently saw a rain garden of lilies that would bring a lot of pretty color to the garden when in bloom. The lilies could be mowed over once the blooming cycle is finished. • Lulu Pickering has several lilies that need to be split and can donate up to ten plants for transplanting in the lily garden. Other folks in town may also have plants to donate. • Maxine Pottier will check to see if any of the folks who had previously expressed an interest in starting a garden club are interested in helping with a lily rain garden.
Document archive for town records	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The town is losing history every day because an archive of town records is not being kept. Each year, bound volumes should be created across all town departments and committees, that contain copies of meeting minutes/agendas as well as the supporting documents deemed worthy of preserving. • The HDC would like to kick off the process of creating town-wide document archives by collecting and binding the historic studies, grant applications and reports, archeological studies, section 106 historic studies, inventory forms, etc. that the HDC has collected over the years. • The HDC process and archives could then be used to help other departments understand what the process involves and what the end result could be. • Chris Cross will look into vendors and costs for binding documents into hardcopy volumes. Cost estimates are needed for (1) either doing the printing in town and then having a contractor bind the material, versus (2) finding a vendor to both print the documents from electronic files and then bind the copies. Costs for acid free paper and appropriate toners for preservation documents are needed.
HDC budget expenses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anticipated costs, so far, to be applied to the HDC budget include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HDC document archive creation – should have its own budget line item and code. ○ Historic district beautification – planting 4-5 trees this fall and repurposing the rain garden into a lily rain garden.
Newington Historical Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NHS is planning to hold its annual town-wide yard sale in September.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Old Parsonage is open for public tours in July and August on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:30 pm.
Meeting ended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion by John Lamson, seconded by Ted Connors, approved when everyone got up to leave.

Lulu Pickering
HDC Member
July 18, 2018