

**Town of Effingham, New Hampshire
Historic District Commission**

**Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2014**

Present: P. Potter (Chair), R. Harrington (Assistant Chair), E. Jones (Secretary), N. Potter, R. Thompson

Absent: T. Eldridge (Selectmen's Representative)

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:10 p.m.

The minutes of the October 14, 2013 meeting and November 1, 2013 public hearing were distributed. It was moved by the Assistant Chair to accept the October meeting minutes as written. Seconded by N. Potter. Passed and carried. It was moved by the Assistant Chair to accept the November public hearing minutes as amended. Seconded by N. Potter. Passed and carried.

Old Business

- 1) The Historic District signs were discussed. The Chair has been advised that the four sign locations, including the revised sign #1 location, have been approved by the NH DOT. Before the signs are ordered however, the Chair will confirm this with the Selectmen's Representative.
- 2) Work at Squire Lord's Mansion. No updates as to whether or not a permit was issued by the Zoning Enforcement Officer for the repairs to the storm doors.
- 3) Historic District maps/Planning Board. The Chair advised that the Planning Board has used the official description of the Lord's Hill Historic District in order to have accurate maps, suitable for recording at the County Registry, drafted. A public hearing for the purposes of taking comments on the maps is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2013 at 7 p.m.

In addition, the Planning Board is proposing a change to the current policy that the most restrictive district's regulations shall apply to the entire lot and instead limit the restrictions imposed by the Historic District to only those portions of the lot that lie within the confines of the district.

- 4) Historic Roadside Marker for the Effingham Town Hall building. Discussion of the idea of applying to the State of New Hampshire for a historic roadside marker for the Effingham Public Library building led to a consensus that should a private citizen draft and submit an application for such a roadside marker, the Commission would consider providing a letter of support for the application.

New Business

- 1) Removal of the "Effingham Town Hall" sign from the Effingham Public Library building. A motion was made by the Assistant Chair, seconded by N. Potter, which directs the Secretary, on behalf of the Commission, to draft a letter to the Board of Selectmen suggesting the removal of the "Effingham Town Hall" sign from the Townhouse Road side of the Effingham Public Library building.

Discussion of the motion centered around two points. First, that the sign is in and of itself not historically significant to the building, given that the building was originally constructed as a school and is also not the only building to have served as town hall. Second, that the continued display of the sign is confusing for both new residents and visitors to the town, who likely believe that the town offices would be located there.

2) Warrant article to reduce the number of Commission members from seven to five.

It was explained that due to the cancellation of the November meeting due to it falling on Veteran's Day and the cancellation of the December meeting due to inclement weather, we were unable to pursue this change to the Zoning Ordinance through the Planning Board as normal, there being insufficient time for the process. After consultation by the Secretary with the NH Secretary of State's office, it has been determined that the most expedient way of bringing about this change is to request that the Board of Selectmen place this change on the official ballot. Upon the recommendation of the town's Administrative Assistant, we would submit a letter to the Board from the Commission rather than present the request at a regular meeting.

A motion was made by N. Potter, seconded by the Secretary, to ask the Board of Selectmen to place an article on the 2014 Town Meeting warrant that would reduce the number of Historic District Commission members from seven members and two alternates to five members and two alternates, with all other conditions concerning the make-up of the commission remaining the same.

During discussion of the motion, it was pointed out that reducing the number of members of the commission would not only make it easier to ensure a full slate of members and alternates, but also reduce the number of members required for a quorum at meetings.

Upon a call for vote by the Chair, the motion passed and carried with one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones
Secretary