

Town of Effingham, New Hampshire
Historic District Commission

Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2015

Present: P. Potter (Chair), E. Chick (Assistant Chair), E. Jones (Secretary), N. Potter

Absent: H. Spencer (Selectmen's Representative)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by the Chair. There were two members of the public present.

The minutes of the April 13th meeting were distributed. It was moved by the Assistant Chair to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by N. Potter. Passed and carried.

The Secretary briefly reviewed for the Commission his attendance at the NH Preservation Alliance's Statewide Historic Preservation Conference.

The Secretary advised the Commission of one piece of correspondence which was received via email since the last meeting. Based on the information in the email, the Commission believes that the inquiry falls outside of its scope of responsibilities. The Secretary will forward the email on to the Zoning Enforcement Officer for follow-up.

Old Business

- 1) Historic District Signs.

The Chair reported that the smaller "National Historic Register" signs are ready. The Chair and the Secretary will work to have the signposts and signs installed by mid-June. The Secretary will handle contacting the DOT as required.

- 2) Historic District maps/Planning Board.

No update at this time.

- 3) Historic Roadside Marker for the Effingham Town Hall building.

No update at this time.

- 4) Updates and Revisions to the Commission Application Form, Fee Structure and Review Process.

The Secretary reported that the Rules of Procedure have been placed on file with the Town Clerk as required by RSA.

- 5) Potential Members/Vacancies on the Commission.

The Secretary indicated that he was able to follow-up with R. Harrington who did confirm that she is not interested in serving as an Alternate at this time. He was unable to contact J. McRae but will endeavor to do so in time for the June meeting.

New Business

- 1) J. Murphy spoke to advise the Commission that she was abandoning her proposed project to add a woodshed to the east side of her barn, mainly due to the high amount of fees that would be required to file with both the HDC and the ZBA as required. The Commission held a lengthy discussion with regard to ways in which the fees might be reduced so that they would not present such an obstacle to Ms. Murphy as a property owner. A joint hearing was discussed as one option since it would reduce the fees required for both advertising and certified mailings. Other options discussed included waivers by one or both of the boards. The Secretary will forward contact information to Ms. Murphy for the ZBA's Secretary (Barbara Thompson) so that

initial inquiries may be made to that body as well. The Commission expressed its willingness to waive some fees in favor of the ZBA if it would assist in moving the process forward.

The Secretary made a motion that should Ms. Murphy request a joint hearing with the ZBA on her project, that the HDC would honor that request. Seconded by E. Chick. Passed and carried.

- 2) R. O'Neal inquired whether any action could be taken with regard to a window at the Lord's Tavern building that was improperly covered over by a previous owner. The Chair advised that since more than two years has passed since the violation occurred, no action can now be taken. Mrs. O'Neal further inquired why no action was taken at the time. The Chair advised that during that period, the Commission had low membership and that as a result, had problems achieving quorum at meetings, so very little business was able to occur.**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones

Secretary