

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

**Meeting Minutes  
January 11, 2016**

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 7:02 p.m. by the Chair. There were five members of the public present.

The minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting were previously distributed by email. It was moved by the Assistant Chair to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by N. Potter. Passed and carried.

The Secretary advised the Commission that one piece of new correspondence was received since the last meeting.

*Note: At this time, the Chair, out of consideration for two of the members of the public present, indicated that the Commission would next have a period of public comment for the purpose of taking questions from Bridget and Kevin Perry with regard to Historic District Zoning and Regulations generally and applications to the property they are considering purchasing (the Leavitt properties) specifically. Approximately 45 minutes to an hour was spent discussing the Historic Districts, the applicable zoning and regulations, and answering questions for the prospective home owners.*

Old Business

- 1) Historic District Signs.

No update at this time.

- 2) Historic District maps/Planning Board.

The Planning Board gave final approval to the revised metes and bounds descriptions at the Public Hearing. The next step in the process will be gaining approval for the changes during the Official Ballot session of Town Meeting in March.

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

It was reiterated that this might be a good winter project for the Commission. More to come on this topic in February.

- 4) Potential Members/Vacancies on the Commission.

The letters approved to be sent during the December meeting have not yet gone out. The Secretary will do this shortly.

The Secretary introduced two of the other members of the public present. Sandy Finn and her husband (**John**) have recently moved to Effingham, purchasing a home in Lost Valley. Sandy is interested in historic preservation and the Secretary suggested that she come to a meeting of the Commission to determine if being a member might be of interest to her.

A lively discussion about history and historic districts in Effingham ensued, including some information about a long ago mystery surrounding the area where the Finns live. We may have scared them away from town . . . time will tell.

5) Lord's Tavern/Failure to obtain Certificate of Approval.

No response was received from the homeowner by the deadline given in the most recently sent letters. Rebecca Boyden, as Zoning Enforcement Officer, has approached Matt Serge, as Town Counsel, for clarification regarding who is responsible for the next steps in the enforcement process. A response was not received in time for the meeting.

The Secretary will continue to follow up with Rebecca on this issue, with the hope of moving along come February.

6) Restoration/Maintenance to Historic Effingham Town Hall.

The Secretary brought to the attention of the Commission the state's Conservation Plate (AKA Moose Plate) Grants program. Under this grant program, funds of up to \$10,000 can be awarded for conservation projects for municipally owned properties. Seems like a perfect fit for Town hall restoration projects. The deadlines for 2016 are rapidly approaching. It was noted that properties must be listed or eligible to be listed on either the state or national Register of Historic Places. It was suggested that perhaps the Commission could work on getting the building listed, with the goal of applying for 2017.

The Secretary will bring it to the attention of the Selectmen since Mr. Spencer was not present.

New Business

None at this time.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones  
Secretary