

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

**Meeting Minutes  
December 12, 2016**

Present: E. Chick (Chair), S. Finn (Assistant Chair), E. Jones (Secretary), L. Espie (Selectmen's Representative)

Absent: None.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by the Chair. There were no members of the public present.

The minutes of the November 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 the Chair. Passed and carried.

The Secretary advised the Commission that four (4) new pieces of correspondence/announcements were received since the last meeting. Two (2) will be discussed under new business.

Old Business

1) Historic District Signs.

The Secretary attempted to contact the former Chair regarding the National Historic Register designation signs for the Lord's Hill Historic District but was unable to do so. The Secretary will continue to pursue this.

2) Historic Roadside Marker for the Effingham Town Hall building.

No update at this time. This project will be taken up when the district signs and regulations review projects have been completed, hopefully over the winter!

3) Potential Members/Vacancies on the Commission.

The Chair has not had an opportunity to contact our one "possible" recruit. The Secretary noted that he learned that the only other "possible" we had recently discussed is planning to move out of town and so would be ineligible to serve.

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

The Secretary did submit a memo to the Board of Selectmen requesting an update on the case. No response has been received. Mr. Espie also indicated that he is not aware of an update from the Town's Counsel.

5) Restoration/Maintenance to Historic Effingham Town Hall.

There is no update on the possibility of developing a plan for the restoration of the building. Mr. Espie did report that he is working with the new Secretary of the Charter Oak Lodge to locate a report that was completed by Cottage Industries. The report was completed after the LCHIP grant and architect's report were received and included a punch list for repairs and restoration to the building. This could potentially serve as a jumping off point from which a plan could be created by the sub-committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

6) Creation of a Master List of Data for Historic District Properties

No update at this time. This project will be taken up when the district signs and regulations review projects have been completed, hopefully over the winter!

7) Review and Revision of the Regulations.

After a brief discussion regarding the issues surrounding the inclusion of the clause related to sign content, in light of information which came to the Commission's attention following the approval of the changes at the public hearings on September 19<sup>th</sup>, the revised and updated Regulations were signed by the Chair, the Assistant Chair, and the Secretary with the understanding that a notation page detailing the issue involved will be placed with any and all publicly available copies, including, but not limited to, the official copy on file with the Town Clerk; the courtesy copies located in the binder in the Municipal Offices hallway, with the Board of Selectmen's Office, and with the Zoning Enforcement Officer; and the digital version placed on the Town of Effingham website.

8) Purchase of a Laptop Computer/Results of Budget Review by Budget Committee.

The cuts by the Budget Committee to the proposed Commission budget were briefly reviewed. The bottom line of the budget was reduced from \$1,945.00 to \$1,145.00. Based on these cuts, the computer line item of \$500.00 must be eliminated, as well as an additional \$300.00 to be determined.

### New Business

1) NH Preservation Alliance – 52 Barns in 52 Weeks campaign.

The Secretary briefly reviewed the NHPA campaign for 2017 which aims to preserve, at minimum, one historic barn per week in NH, utilizing barn education programs, barn assessment grants, and the barn preservation tax credits available through RA 79-D. Since the Town of Effingham does not participate in the barn tax credits program, it was decided NOT to post a direct link to this campaign on the Commission's section of the Town website. The link to the NHPA will still be available.

2) Accessory Dwelling Units – Planning Board proposal and feedback session.

The Secretary advised the Commission that he, in an individual capacity, attended the Planning Board's scheduled "feedback" session for the proposal ~~for~~ of a new Article in the Town's Zoning Ordinance to address the issue of Accessory Dwelling Units, resulting from a new state law.

The Planning Board heard several comments, including some from the Secretary regarding how the ADU article will dovetail with the Historic District Regulations. After brief discussion, the Planning Board made some adjustments to the proposal which **will** allow the Zoning Ordinance and the Historic District Regulations to work together best.

The official public hearing on this new proposed article (and any other proposed Zoning Ordinance amendments) will take place in January 2017.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones  
Secretary