

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

**Meeting Minutes
July 10, 2017**

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 7:14 p.m. by the Chair. There were seven members of the public present. Those individuals were: J. Earle, H. Foy, J. Meisner, J. Murphy, R. O'Neal, L. Racine, and S. Regal.

Note: At this time, the Commission moved to New Business first, in order to accommodate members of the public in attendance. The minutes of the meeting, however, will be presented in their usual order.

The minutes of the June 12th meeting were distributed. It was moved by the Assistant Chair to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by L. Espie. Passed and carried.

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

Old Business

1) Historic District Signs.

The Secretary reported that he was able to obtain an estimate of \$80.00 from Sign One for replacement of the missing signs. Mr. Espie reported that he is working to get the original signs back. R. O'Neal inquired why the individual who has the original signs has not either returned them or been billed by the town for their replacement. It was decided to hold off one more month on ordering replacements to give Mr. Espie time to follow up on the original signs.

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

The Secretary reported that he realized that photographs of the murals are needed in order to submit the application, which he had neglected to think of before. Ms. Murphy offered to take the necessary photographs for the Commission. She and the Secretary will meet at the Library on July 15th at 1:30 p.m. to complete that task.

3) Potential Members/Vacancies on the Commission.

No update. The Commission still has vacancies for one full member and two alternates.

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

The Verified Petition for Declaratory Judgment was reviewed by the Commission for accuracy with regard to the actions and dates of actions already undertaken in the matter.

No errors in the petition were found. The Chair will advise Town Counsel that the facts are correct as presented so that the petition can be filed with Carroll County Superior Court.

5) Restoration/Maintenance to Historic Effingham Town Hall.

No update.

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

No update.

7) Land Use Boards Meeting.

The Chair recapped the meeting, which both she and the Assistant Chair were able to attend. The Secretary apologized that he was not in attendance as it slipped his mind. Topics including application processes, ordinance enforcement, and approval conditions and follow-up on those conditions were all discussed. Several questions for Town Counsel were agreed upon by the those in attendance and were to be submitted by the Board of Selectmen.

8) 7/24 Work Session, 6:30 p.m. – Reminder

Main project to be undertaken is additional work on the files.

9) Effingham Preservation Society – Regulations Inquiries

Handled under new business as representative of the EPS were in attendance for that purpose.

10) Heidi Foy – Application Submission – 3 Plantation Road.

Handled during the Public Hearing held immediately prior to the meeting.

New Business

1) Effingham Preservation Society – Request for permission to install chain between existing granite posts.

Mr. Racine and Mr. Regal, representing the EPS, appeared requesting permission to install chain between the recently installed granite posts at the EPS building located at 6 Town House Road. They requested that an exception to the regulations be made so that the application and associated fees could be waived since the EPS is a non-profit.

There was a lengthy discussion on the request.

The Secretary noted that the Commission had determined at its last meeting that while the posts are not specifically dealt with in the regulations, that the addition of the chain makes the installation a fence, which are covered in the regulations. He expressed concern about both the fairness and legality of waiving the requirements for an application and the required fees in this case based on the fact that EPS is a non-profit, when private property owners have been required to do so. He also noted that this could set a precedent, given that there are three other non-profit property owners in the two districts.

The Commission discussed whether a blanket exception for non-profits could be worked into the regulations and /or whether the regulations could be changed to allow some types of work without an application. Ms. Murphy suggested that perhaps applications could be required for structural changes but waived for smaller projects like fences and the like. The question was raised regarding whether or not this qualified as a fence. It was noted by Mr. Meisner that this type of installation is known as a "Parker fence" and it was further noted that it is defined as a fence in the regulations.

A member of the Commission volunteered to pay the fee in this case so that the monetary issue was not a barrier.

The Commission determined that though modifications of the regulations may be in order, as the regulations currently stand, an application and the associated application fee must be submitted. Since someone will be paying the application fee on the Society's behalf, Mr. Racine agreed to submit the application and fee, under protest, but requested that the EPS be allowed to proceed with the project in the meantime.

The Chair moved to allow installation of the chain pending receipt of a completed application and the application fee, to be reviewed at the next meeting of the Commission. Seconded by the Assistant Chair. Passed and carried.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones
Secretary