

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

**Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2019**

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by the Chair.

Review of Minutes: The minutes of the December 10th meeting were distributed. It was moved by S. Finn to accept the minutes as corrected. Seconded by E. Chick. Passed and carried.

Correspondence: Newsletter from Preservation Society – shared with the Commission members.

Old Business

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

No update.

- 2) Potential Members/Vacancies on the Commission.

No update. Vacancies to fill: one full seat and two alternate seats.

- 3) Creation of a Master List of Data for Historic District Properties. No further progress to date.

New Business

- 1) HDC Annual Report: Deadline for submission 1/19/19 – Elaine Chick provided copies of the draft for the Annual Town Report. Elaine will submit the edited copy to the Town Administrator for inclusion in the Town Report.
- 2) Letter for reappointment: Two members have terms expiring this March. After some discussion about term dates and staggering of dates, the Commission decided to continue with the current length of terms and allow a new member to fill the other staggered term date. In order to prevent lack of quorum, Elaine will submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting they reappoint Sandra Finn and Erik Jones each for the 3-year term.

- 3) Discussion regarding Warrant Article 2: Asking to repeal the Town Zoning Ordinance. What are the possible impacts on the Commission, the Historic Districts and the Regulations?
- If Zoning is repealed the impact on the HDC is not certain but worst case scenario could be the Historic District Regulations would be repealed as part of the Zoning Ordinance . The Districts and the Commission would still exist based on the RSA's below.
 - Erik Jones spoke with Margaret at the NH Municipal Association and raised the question of certain RSA's that are specific to Historic Districts:
 - **RSA 674.47** - Abolition of Historic Districts. This RSA requires a petition of 25 signatures specifically to abolish the Historic Districts. Once received, the HDC would then hold 2 public hearings at least 15 days apart. Following the public hearings the proposal to abolish a Historic District must be presented for a warrant of a regular or special Town Meeting. A District would be abolished only after a 2/3 vote. Based on this RSA, there has not been a petition to abolish the Historic Districts.
 - **RSA 673.18** - Abolition of a Planning Board, Heritage Commission or Historic District Commission. This RSA requires a petition of at least 100 registered voters, and the Petition should state 'Are you in favor of abolishing the Planning Board' or "the Heritage Commission" or "the Historic District Commission." Based on this RSA the Historic District Commission would still exist.
 - The unknown is really what would happen to the Historic District Regulations, since they were adopted into the Zoning Ordinance.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, a motion to adjourn was made by E. Jones. Seconded J. Meisner. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy Finn
Secretary