

## **Historic District Commission (HDC) 2016 Annual Report**

2016 brought significant membership changes for the Historic District Commission. We began the year with a full quorum of four full members, the selectmen's representative and two vacancies for alternates. At the start of the year, long time board member and prior Chair, Mr. Paul Potter announced he would not seek reappointment and would be leaving the commission at the end of his term. Mr. P. Potter had been a member of the Commission for 29 years. His knowledge and support will be greatly missed and we thank him for his service. Mr. Neil Potter submitted his resignation in March 2016 indicating he would retire from the Commission in August 2016. Mr. N. Potter stepped up when the Commission was faced with difficulties in filling membership vacancies. The HDC appreciates Mr. N. Potter's willingness to serve on the Commission and his service to the community.

Mr. Erik Jones, Historic District Commission Secretary, was reappointed for a 3-year term ending in 2019. Ms. Sandra Finn, a new resident to Effingham, was appointed for a 3-year term also ending in 2019. We are currently seeking one member to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Potter's departure in August and two alternates. The Commission is always looking for individuals with an interest in Historic District and a desire to serve on the board. As an appointed Board, interested parties must apply to the Board of Selectmen. We invite the public to attend our meetings, whether they have business before the commission or just an interest in learning more about the Historic District Commission. We meet on the second Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at the Municipal offices.

At the March Town meeting, the townspeople voted in favor to adopt amendments 2016-4, 2016-5 and 2016-6, amending Article 15, section 1502, clarifying the metes and bounds legal description of the Historic Districts. Considerable time and effort went into assuring the accuracy of descriptions and transferring those defined boundaries onto the associated Tax Maps. A map of each Historic District can be viewed at the Municipal Offices or on the Town website.

Historic District Sign Project: The Commission is very pleased to report that, in September 2016, the Historic District Signs delineating the borders of both Historic Districts, were installed on Route 153. This project has been under way for some time and was mentioned in the Historic District Town Report as far back as 2001. Once the Historic Register placards for the Lord's Hill District are added, this project will be considered complete.

2016 Commission business included: The review of four new Applications for Certificate of Approval, two for the Lord's Hill District and two for the Center Effingham District. In addition, one request for extension of an existing, previously approved, application. Currently pending, the outcome of one Notice of Violation for failure to submit the Application for Certificate of Approval. After several sessions of edits, additions and modifications the Historic District Regulations were revised and ready for public comment and review. In September, the Commission held Public Hearings in the two Districts to review and approve the changes. The newly revised Regulations are on file at the Municipal Town Offices.

Members of the Historic District Commission had the opportunity to attend the New Hampshire Municipal Association: Law Lecture Series that was offered in October 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Chick

Chair of the Historic District Commission