

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

**Meeting Minutes
April 8, 2013**

Present: P. Potter (Chair), R. Harrington, E. Jones, R. Thompson

Absent: A. Hubbard, Tim Eldridge (Selectmen's Representative)

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 7:04pm. At the request of the Chair, E. Jones agreed to take the minutes.

The minutes of the March 11, 2013 meeting were distributed. It was moved by R. Harrington to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by R. Thompson. Passed and carried.

There was no financial report.

As this was the first meeting of the Commission since Town Meeting, the selection of officers for the upcoming year was discussed. The following officer slate for the Commission was proposed:

P. Potter – Chair (moved by R. Harrington, seconded by E. Jones)
R. Harrington – Assistant Chair (moved by R. Thompson, seconded by P. Potter)
E. Jones – Secretary (moved by R. Harrington, seconded by R. Thompson)

There being no further discussion, the chair called for a vote. Passed and carried as proposed.

Old Business:

- 1) The proposed signs to be placed along Route 153 indicating the boundaries of the historic districts were discussed. Unfortunately, the drawings of the proposed signs could not be located. This is however a project on which the commission has been working for some time. The Chair and Assistant Chair expressed their opinion that the signs as proposed were both attractive and sturdy and that they would be a nice addition to the districts. There being no further discussion the Chair called for a vote to approve the installation of the signs. Passed and carried.
- 2) At 7:15pm, the Chair called the Public Hearing related to the request by PSNH to remove several trees along Hobbs Road (a designated scenic road) to order. The Chair indicated that he had been advised that a representative from PSNH was not available that evening to attend.

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the public. One member of the public (S. Libby) was present. Mr. Libby made two points. The first was that many of the trees now marked for removal were trees he had marked for removal as much as 15 years ago when he worked for PSNH. The second was that all but one of the marked trees are dead and that these dead trees cause a significant nuisance to residents on Hobbs Road because the trees or pieces of the trees frequently come down in storms, causing obstructions on or complete blockage of the road, as well as power outages that can last a couple of days.

Page 2

The Chair, the Secretary and R. Thompson all concurred with Mr. Libby that, with one exception, all of the trees marked for removal are dead and it was agreed that it was surprising they hadn't fallen down on their own already in some cases.

There was some brief discussion regarding to what extent the scenic road covers. The Chair indicated it was his understanding that the scenic road designation (and therefore the area over which the Commission has jurisdiction) corresponds to the town's right of way. It was agreed that all the trees in question but one fell within this area. The one exception was on the land of Mr. Libby and he indicated that he had no objection to its removal by PSNH.

There being no further discussion and no further public comment, the Chair called for a motion to approve the request by PSNH to remove the trees as marked on Hobbs Road. So moved by the Secretary, seconded by the Assistant Chair. Passed and carried.

New Business:

- 1) The Chair advised the Commission that the Planning Board is working on getting the Historic Districts correctly and properly mapped. There is some conflicting information with regard to the extent of the setback contained within the Districts, some documents indicating 200 feet, some indicating 400 feet. The Chair believes the 400 foot figure to be correct, however if definitive answer CAN NOT be determined it may be necessary to clarify the issue with a warrant article at the 2014 Town Meeting. If a definitive answer CAN be determined, the Planning Board hopes to have the project completed and new maps prepared by the end of May. These maps would then be recorded at the Carroll County Registry of Deeds. This means that this map and the information it provided with regard to property lying in the Historic Districts would appear on title searches.
- 2) The Secretary advised the Commission that it appears that the owners of Squire Lord's Mansion on Hobbs Road have been doing some work to the building, specifically replacing doors on the front and side of the building. The Chair indicated that it may not be the doors but rather the storm shutters which protect the glass doors behind. The Chair will follow up with R. Boyden to determine if a permit was issued for the work, as the Commission is supposed to be made aware of any requests within the district before a permit is issued.

There being no further business or work planned, a motion to adjourn was made by the Assistant Chair, seconded by R. Thompson. The Chair called for a voted, passed and carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Jones
Secretary