

Town of Newington, NH
Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 15th, 2023

Present: HDC Chair John Chamberlain, HDC Members John Lamson, Peggy Lamson and Rebecca St. Germaine.

J. Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

Historic Plaques:

J. Chamberlain said that he got a quote for the Meeting House plaque. The quote includes a pedestal and the plaque. They will be made of heavy-duty plastic.

J. Lamson moved to approve the purchase of the new plaque for the Meeting House.

P. Lamson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Update on the Record Preservation Project:

J. Chamberlain passed out a list of all the items that have been scanned so far. Before the scanning could start V. Eversman had to organize all the files. J. Lamson suggested writing a contract with V. Eversman for the first quarter in 2024 and use the leftover money in the 2023 budget to fund it. J. Chamberlain said that there is a need to get a laptop for this project. J. Chamberlain will speak to M. Roy about the purchase of a laptop.

V. Eversman has been scanning documents in the vault right now. Scanning the oldest items first. There are two bookcases of items to be scanned. Eventually, a website could be created to give access to these items to everyone. OCRing will allow the documents to be searched by words in the documents. However, many of the old documents are hand written and will be difficult for OCRing to read it. AI may be able to read the handwritten items in the future.

Minutes Approval: J. Chamberlain moved to approve the minutes of September 8th, 2023 and the October 4th, 2023. J. Lamson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Record Preservation Objectives and Priorities:

J. Chamberlain said the priority is to scan all the items in the vault and doesn't think there is a need to prioritize them because he thinks that they will be able to scan everything.

Discussion ensued about the items in the Old Town Hall and getting permission from the Historical Society in order to preserve these items.

J. Lamson said that there are three members of the Historical Society attending this HDC meeting, John Lamson, Peggy Lamson and Rebecca St. Germaine, and they can give the HDC permission to go into the Old Town Hall and begin preserving these

items. J. Lamson said that he or L. Pickering could get V. Eversman started documenting the items in the Old Town Hall, but believes that V. Eversman could be there by herself to do the majority of the work. The HDC and the Historical Society could put together a working arrangement for this project. J. Chamberlain said that over the next couple of months the HDC can communicate with the Historical Society about the upcoming work. J. Chamberlain and John Lamson are meeting with the Selectmen on Monday December 18th to discuss access to the Old Town Hall.

Year End Expenditures:

J. Chamberlain said that this item has already been covered by the motion for the plaque and the discussion of the contract with V. Eversman for the first quarter of 2024.

J. Chamberlain said the State asked a consulting firm to review possible uses of the Train Depot at Bloody Point. It has something to do with the work they are doing on the General Sullivan Bridge. They were looking for feedback. J. Lamson said that it is in the Historic District and anyone that acquires that property would still have to adhere to HDC control. J. Chamberlain said that he would forward the email from the consultant to the other members of the HDC in case they would like to comment on redevelopment options for that property.

Adjournment: J. Chamberlain moved to adjourn at 1:35pm. J. Lamson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder