

TOWN OF TEMPLE, NH
TEMPLE HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Meeting held at the Town Hall

Monday Sept. 18, 2006

Final Minutes of Public Meeting

Members present: John Kieley (JK), Randy Burnham (RB), Mary Nutting (MN), Dan Cournoyer (DC), Vivian Nicholl (VN) Phyllis Mazza (PM), Sarge Collier (SC).

Others present: Connie Kieley, Ann Repak, Dave Repak, Michelle Clements, Honey Hastings, Richard Benotti, Sandy Benotti, Margaret Cournoyer, Lillian Maynard, Edward Schubert, Elizabeth Schubert, Charlene Eddy, Barbara Harling, Martha Scott.

Meeting called to order by RB at 7:10 pm.

- RB opened the meeting with an introduction of thanks to all for their attendance and emphasized the importance of continued involvement and valued input from members.
 - a. RB read and reviewed the history and contents of the ordinance. He stated the Commission was initially pursued for the preservation of the Green and area surrounding. Owners of houses within the district were asked if they wanted to be a part and some subsequently volunteered to be members.
 - b. DC explained what the district was zoned to be originally. He went on to explain that it changed according to the actual houses that ended up in the district as a result of the residents who volunteered at that time.
 - c. PM added some historical facts of who the first members of the Commission were.
- RB discussed what the Commission is actually allowed/able to regulate
 - a. Michelle Clemens asked if there would be input allowed from the HD members for any changes considered. Commission members replied in favor of this.
- VN commented about the efforts put forth this year regarding the work the members of the Commission have done so far. She emphasized that there has been a lot of contact with state agencies for guidelines that will be instrumental in helping fine tune any procedural changes to be made, as well as a collection of examples from other NH town HDC's that have been very informative. She also mentioned that our established meeting schedule on the 3rd Monday of the month, minutes, ordinance, HD map, Commission member info, and other pertinent information, is on the Temple website.

- Sarge Collier commented that from a homeowners standpoint, being a member of the HD could be a deficit to the property owner with possible repercussions of lower property values realized. He commented that it could be a “double edge sword” and wondered if we had any statistics referring to a possible answer to this question.
 - a. RB stated there was a need to pursue the issue and would attempt to find a good resource for information about it.
- Honey Hastings asked if we are tightening up the rules and regulations.
 - a. RB addressed the question by explaining that we are trying to better define the current procedures which at times seem too ambiguous.
 - b. RB also restated the 3 purposes at the beginning of the ordinance and emphasized that this was a key element to our work on the procedures ordinance.
- Michelle Clements addressed the concerns of members needing to rebuilding and what would our decision be for reconstruction in the event of a fire, etc.
- Sarge Collier asked if the HD has enough representation on the commission.
 - a. VN stated that the Commission has the recommended balance of members according to state guidelines.
- Richard Benotti asked what procedures take place for the replacement of windows in the Parsonage. Sandy Benotti mentioned that they are the same window style that is currently in the Fellowship Hall.
 - a. RB led a discussion on how to maintain a balance especially in the case of materials used. He also mentioned the efforts being done to compile the guideline book that ultimately will be a tool used to answer this sort of question.
- Honey Hastings spoke from experience of other Boards and stated that the Commission needs to be open to the input from HD members to make final decisions.
- Michelle Clements asked about changing the 45 days required waiting period to a shorter length of time.
 - a. DC suggested that we consider having an additional special meeting to resolve the questions in a more timely fashion if necessary.
- Connie Kieley asked Lillian Maynard and the Schuberts for their viewpoints about the history and meaning of the HD.
 - a. Lillian Maynard stated that she was happy that the effort was made to establish the HD and that she is generally happy with the way it is functioning so far.

- b. Elizabeth Schubert stated that they were pleased to see work being done to get things back on track. She also commented that we are quite unique in that each house within the District is different and not one stands out above another.
- Margaret Cournoyer commented that we should adopt a rule about having no traffic lights and also to prohibit neon signs.
 - a. RB addressed this concern with a discussion about our function as opposed to the Select Board. He emphasized that more effort needs to be taken to coordinate the functions of each group so that efforts to uphold the purpose of the HD are not running into conflict with the town.
- Martha Scott asked about restrictions of political signs. DC stated that there are no political signs allowed on town property. RB confirmed that we will further investigate and clarify those rules and regulations.
- Margaret Cournoyer brought up the question of the allowance of street lights. RB stated that we would review some of the other towns and their views and uses of this type of lighting.
- Michelle Clements mentioned the beauty of open space but raises the concern that they are not within the zoned district. JK brought up the reality that any of those open land parcels could be developed in the future. He asked how we can address the concerns of this possibility without disrupting the rural character of the village that we presently enjoy.
- Charlene Eddy asked if we have approached the Planning Board of combining the HD and the Historic Village?
- RB discussed the processes to be taken when needing to submit a request for a change, repair, alteration, or reconstruction. RB asked that if there are any considerations for changes to please let the Commission know. Michelle Clements wanted clarification as to how to determine that the work needs to go through this approval process. It was suggested that we specify the wording to include making this clear.
 - a. Honey Hastings also commented that the application could include the whole project that gives leeway to any additional problems that are run into along the way.
- RB moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 pm. JK seconded. Voted in the affirmative unanimously

Next meeting Oct. 16, 2006 @ 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building

Minutes submitted by Secretary Vivian Nicholl