

These minutes were approved at the August 5, 2004 meeting.

DURHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
Thursday, July 1, 2004
Town Council Chambers

Members Present: Chair, Crawford Mills
Vice Chair, Roger Jaques
Secretary, Cathy Leach
Leslie Schwartz
Karl Van Asselt, Town Council Rep.

Members Absent: Nicholas Isaak, Planning Board Rep.

I. Meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 3, 2004 meeting were approved.

III. Presentation from Linda Wilson of the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR):

Much of discussion was based upon Ms. Wilson's suggestions in two areas: a) that Durham form a Heritage District Commission; and b) that additional historical survey information be conducted. Regarding the Heritage District Commission, Ms. Wilson stated the following: 1/3 of NH communities have a Heritage District Commission. The role of a Heritage District Commission are: to be the "voice of preservation for the entire town," not just those properties in the historic district; to educate and advocate for preservation; to provide technical assistance and other support to historical home owners; and to survey and indicate historical properties within the town. The state DHR is eager to include non-buildings such as dams, mills, and cemeteries to its survey of historical places.

Regarding additional survey work, Ms. Wilson stated that Durham could hire a consultant for such work, and can apply for funding as a CLG (Certified Local Government) community.

Ms. Wilson also provided numerous hand-outs that includes resource groups and websites for providing more information and support to Historic and Heritage District Commissions.

IV. New Business:

A. Park Court Properties, 10 Main St., Map 4, Lot 54-3.

Perry Bryant asked the commission for guidelines on his plan to maintain/repair Park Court apartments on 8 and 10 Main St. Repair includes window replacement, repair of cedar siding with vinyl shakes, and the painting of 8 Main St. Crawford Mills guided Mr. Bryant that he needed to come to the commission only if substantial changes in appearance were being made, not for overall repair and maintenance. Roger Jaques stated his wish for the commission to review any non-natural materials that may be used. The

commission did ask that Mr. Bryant return to the August meeting with a sample of the vinyl shakes. The commission also expressed that repainting 8 Main St. yellow would be acceptable.

B. St. George's Episcopal Church, 1 Park Court, Map 4, Lot 54-2.

Architect Bill Schoonmaker presented a preliminary plan for possible future renovations to St. George's Church for the commission's review. Also present were Dale Hardy and Kendree Parker from the Church Building Committee. Crawford Mills also wanted it be put on record that he is a member of St. George's. Overall, the commission was supportive of the plans, with only two questions asked: the roof elevation of the back addition; and a door included on a new addition to the front of the building.

Commission discussion:

Councilor Van Asselt suggested the commission write a letter to Tom Johnson, code enforcement officer, outlining the guidelines for the type of requests that need to be made through the HDC. Chair Crawford Mills will draft the letter.

V. Old Business:

A. Demolition by Neglect:

Roger Jaques has sent the Demolition by Neglect document to Jim Campbell, Town Planner for filing with the town. The document will next be reviewed by the Planning Board within the Historic District overlay section of the new zoning ordinances. Roger has also asked Mr. Campbell for a copy of all the changes the HDC has suggested for the zoning rewrites and will get that to us when it is available.

B. Other business:

Roger Jaques reported a response (see attached) received from the NH DHR regarding receipt of the Commission's grant application for the historic signage program. The town will be notified by July 30 of the DHR decision.

Councilor Van Asselt suggested that we look at the materials provided by Linda Wilson and consider becoming a Heritage District Commission. Cathy Leach suggested that we come up with a comprehensive plan to present to the Town Council; Crawford Mills then suggested that a portion of our August meeting be spent as a planning session concerning this issue.

Also for the August meeting: members of the Durham Historic Society will be asked to join us; Roger Jaques will contact some of the key people involved; Nick Isaak will update us on his meeting with the NH Preservation Alliance.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.