

Town of Hebron

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Hebron Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes May 1, 2012

Board Members Present: Andrea Goldthwaite (Chair), John Black, Eleanor Lonske (Select Board Representative)

Board Members Absent: Tripp Swartz, Nancy Sycamore

Others Present: David Goldthwaite, Thomas Gump (Selectman), Diane Burbank (Secretary)

Time Convened: 7:00 PM **Time Adjourned:** 7:37 PM **Next meeting:** To Be Announced

Agenda:

1. Organizational Meeting to Elect Officers
2. Approve Minutes of Prior Meetings and Other Administrative Matters
3. Discuss Placement of New Sign at Cemetery
4. Discuss Removal of "No Outlet" sign on Town Common
5. Any other business that may come before the Board.

Eleanor Lonske, Select Board representative called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. She asked for nominations for Chair of the commission. **John Black nominated Andrea Goldthwaite, and Ms. Lonske seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and members voted unanimously to appoint Andrea Goldthwaite Chair of the Hebron Historic District Commission.** Ms. Lonske then asked for nominations for Vice Chair of the commission. **Andrea Goldthwaite nominated Alfred "Tripp" Swartz, and John Black seconded the nomination. A vote was taken and members voted unanimously to appoint Tripp Swartz as Vice Chairman of the Hebron Historic District Commission.** Ms. Lonske then turned the meeting over to Chair Andrea Goldthwaite.

The minutes of the September 12, 2011 HHDC meeting were reviewed. There being no corrections or additions, **John Black moved and Ellie Lonske seconded a motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2011 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.** The minutes of the November 29, 2011 Joint Public Hearing for the Historic District Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment were reviewed. There being no corrections or additions, **John Black moved and Ellie Lonske seconded a motion to approve the minutes of November 29, 2011 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.**

Discuss Placement of New Sign at Cemetery: Selectman Tom Gump approached the members and displayed a new sign he was proposing to post at the Hebron Cemetery in the Historic District. He explained that the Select Board had received a letter and had heard public outcry about dogs running around in the cemetery. He consulted Ron Collins, Cemetery Sexton, who also had safety concerns about vehicles driving in the cemetery. A new sign was designed stating *"No Animals* or Unauthorized Vehicles Allowed in the Cemetery *Except service animals that are specifically trained to aid a disabled person"*. Mr. Gump requested permission from the Historic Commission to install one sign on the left side of the gate near the cemetery entrance off North Shore Road, and a second sign near the back side of

These minutes may be amended at a future meeting. Any changes will be included in the minutes of that meeting.

the cemetery where the snowmobile trail ends. **There being no objections, Andrea Goldthwaite moved to allow the installation of the two signs at the Hebron Cemetery in the specified locations. John Black seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.**

Discuss Removal of “No Outlet” sign on Town Common: Chair Goldthwaite announced that she has heard complaints and suggestions to remove this unsightly sign in the middle of the historic town common. However, when the removal was proposed recently, she received an e-mail from John Dunklee, former Selectman, advising against the removal. According to Mr. Dunklee, the staff who work in the Select Board’s office every day, relayed that trucks occasionally still try to use School Street as a through thoroughfare. Some GPS systems also list this as a through road as well. Large trucks forced to turn around in the small parking area present a danger to parked cars and persons using the common. He thus recommended leaving the sign in place. Ms. Goldthwaite concurred that without a sign, the natural tendency of drivers would be to proceed straight through School Street rather than negotiate the circle around the common area, and for safety reasons agreed a sign was necessary. She asked others present for input. Ms. Lonske remarked that this matter is related to the larger issue of general road signage and first impressions of the town center to outsiders when entering the historic district. Professional town planners during the recent charrette pointed out a need for more appropriate signage and a master plan for landscaping on the common. Tom Gump suggested that the State might erect a less offensive arrow type sign on North Shore Road while approaching the common. Mrs. Goldthwaite will check with the police department to see what other options might accomplish the same purpose. **Ellie Lonske made a motion seconded by John Black to table this matter until other options could be considered. The motion passed unanimously.**

Other Business: As a follow up to the town planners’ landscaping suggestions, Ms. Lonske asked the committee members their opinion on a master landscaping plan for the common grounds. Trees have been replaced as needed over the years, but there has been no professional consultation regarding the hardiest varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers for our specific region and use in such a public area. John Black pointed out that road salt should be considered in any plan for the common. Chair Goldthwaite believed that the numerous factors in such a plan were beyond the scope of the Historic District Commission. She recommended that the matter be handled initially by Selectmen or a new Parks and Recreation Committee before the Historic District Commission is consulted for input.

Mrs. Goldthwaite expressed concern for the Historic District as well as general town roads in regard to MAXAM trucks passing through Hebron Village. She remarked that in the past few months, the volume of these stainless steel tanker trucks often accompanied by box trucks and other vehicles has increased dramatically. MAXAM is a large scale operation for manufacturing explosives, and the trucks are en route to a storage facility located on a remote mountain area in Alexandria off Sculptured Rocks Road in Groton. Mrs. Goldthwaite believed the town should look into whether these vehicles contain explosives on their way in or out of the plant, whether the explosives are inert, and what type of liquid is in the tanker trucks. David Goldthwaite stated that more information about this cargo is needed and that the town’s Joint Loss Committee, Fire and Forest Fire Departments and Police Departments should all be made aware of the risks and institute a plan in case of an accident involving these vehicles in Hebron. Select Board members, Ms. Lonske and Mr. Gump, thanked the Goldthwaites for bringing this matter to their attention and will follow up with other town departments.

There being no other business, **John Black made a motion, seconded by Ellie Lonske to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 7:37 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Diane L. Burbank, Secretary