

Canaan Historic District (HDC) Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2007

Senior Center, Canaan, NH

Approved Minutes

Members Present: John Bergeron (JB), Rainie Kelly (RK), Dan Fleetham (DF), Jay Waldner (JW) ex officio

Absent: Jonathan Garthwaite (JG)

Alternate Members Present: Andrew Mulligan (AM), Skip Baldwin (SB)

Absent: Matt Dow (MD)

7:00- Meeting called to order. Skip Baldwin appointed by the chair to vote in place of JG.

7:02 Minutes of meeting of 9.17.07 read.

Motion to accept with minor corrections: JW, 2nd SB

Motion passed.

7:05 Discussion about markers (signs) on historic homes in Canaan.

JB reiterated his opinion that encouraging residents to affix markers on historic homes be a joint project of the Canaan Historical Society and the Historic District Commission. All agree.

How do we determine whether or not a home is "historic"? AM pointed out that according to the federal government's definition, a structure must be at least 50 years old. Majority of HDC members comfortable with JB's suggestion that we start with structures which are at least 100 years old.

Issues:

1. How to verify the age of a structure? Some towns rely on information in the assessor's office (this information is not available in Canaan for homes built before the 1923 fire which destroyed town records). Title searches only indicate owners of land, not necessarily age of a structure built on the land. 1850 map of Canaan might provide useful information. Historical society may have other ideas.

2. Size and material used for the markers:

Size of the signs used in Plainfield appears to be 12x16. This allows three lines of text, followed by the date of construction. Samples from other towns vary in size and shape. Members found the Plainfield signs and the smaller signs used in Medford, MA to be attractive. Medford's signs have a logo at the top followed by *circa*, followed by date of construction. If we choose the Medford format, the Meetinghouse logo could appear at the top of the sign.

Materials: Ould Colony Artisans (company which produced the signs for Plainfield) uses 1/2" MDO weatherproofed signboard, primed & finished with three coats of paint. Hand-wrought iron nails are provided. A 12x16 sign costs \$55. (Other communities charge between \$70-\$175 for markers which they make available.) Merits of using markers of plastic or metal also discussed. By JB's estimate, we could probably count on at least 25 households in the Historic District to purchase signs.

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Follow-up: **DF** will invite members of the Historical Society to attend the HDC meeting on November 19. **JB** will email members a copy of the Medford brochure. **RK** will contact the Medford Historical Society for information about their project and will contact Ould Colony Artisans for an estimate of the cost of a bulk order of signs with the Meetinghouse logo.

8:30 Motion to adjourn: DF, 2nd: SB.
Motion passed.

Submitted,

Rainie Kelly, Secretary

Next regular meeting: November 19, 2007, Senior Center