

DURHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION  
Thursday, August 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes  
Durham Town Office

**Members Present:** Lois Kilby-Chesley, Paula Purdy, Candy DeCspikes and Emily Alexander  
**Members Absent:** Anita Sellars

**Others Present:** John Talbot, Durham Planning Board Chair

**Proceedings:**

- *Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm* by Chair Lois Kilby-Chesley
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Lois Kilby-Chesley recognizes John Talbot and invites him to speak at 6:01 pm

John Talbot granted 10 minutes to talk:

- He explains he is in attendance because he was interested to learn the status of the DHDC ordinances edits
- He discusses the selectman approved committee of planning board members tasked with meeting with land use groups to monitor them while the groups adjust their ordinance articles
- Gives example of Conservation Commision assessing viability for solar farms and cell towers and determining rules and guidelines for potential solar farms and cell towers
- Mentions Appeals Board work with the planning board
- Asks DHDC if members have questions, no member had a question for John Talbot

Lois Kilby-Chesley asks for an amendment to the agenda. She requests moving Continuing Business to first because Emily Alexander needs to leave at 7pm. There are no objections to reordering agenda

*Continuing Business*

Topic: suggested language in Article 5.14, 1500 ft buffer

- Lois Kilby-Chesley proposes combining language of G and J in Article 5.14
- 6:18 pm Paula Purdy requests time to review, time granted for review
- Lois Kilby-Chesley asks for a motion to approve Section 5.14 including G, Paula Purdy motions, Candy DeCspikes seconds
- Discussion: Paula Purdy wants clarification over which properties this article applies,
- Lois Kilby-Chesley clarifies the only change is moving the language fro J and G and changing the word 'construction' to 'structure'
- 6:25 pm Lois Kilby-Chesley asks all in favor, motion passes all in favor, none opposed

Topic: Edits for typos

- Paula Purdy mentions 5.14, H #3, new line and should read 'commision' not 'committee'
- Lois Kilby-Chesley calls a motion to accept or deny 5.14 as written with edits, Candy DeCspikes motions, Paula Purdy seconds, motion passes all in favor, with none opposed

Topic: Article 12

- Lois Kilby-Chesley call for a motion to accept Article 12, 6:30 pm. Emily Alexander motions to accept Article 12, Candy DeCspikes seconds, all in favor, none opposed
- **Discussion:** Paula Purdy questions the elimination of #7, B 38 on page 2. She has a question about what 2.2 is on page 13. Lois Kilby-Chesley looks up clarification. Lois Kilby-Chesley finds that Article 2 = Establishment of Districts, 2.2 = Primary Districts and 2.2B = Overlaying Districts and 2.3 = District Boundaries. Paula Purdy notices mislabeling in Article 12.3 E -change 'E' to 'D', 12.5 standards letters 'A' 'B'; 'C' were crossed out by mistake, Typo: 12.5 D 'in in'
- Lois Kilby-Chesley says there is a motion on the floor to accept 12 language, all in favor, none opposed

Topic: Definitions

- Lois Kilby-Chesley asks for a motion to approve definitions, 6:43 Paula Purdy motions, Cand DeCspikes seconds, all in favor, none opposed
- Discussion: Paula Purdy questions 1770 date on definition #15. Paula Purdy asks about the cattle pound in relation to definition #43. Lois Kilby-Chesley explains the definition only applies to structures inside of the district and whether they contribute to the value of the Historic District
- 6: 49pm Lois Kilby-Chesley asks to accept definitions, 3 in favor, 1: Paula Purdy opposed

Lois Kilby-Chesley suggests making a motion to table the DHDC article edits for the Town Meeting. John Talbot says they must be sent to the Select Board. Lois Kilby-Chelsy makes a motion to save DHDC article edits until 2025. Paula seconds.

**Discussion:** Lois Kilby-Chesley talks about her attendance of the Select Board meeting on April 8th, 2023. Expresses that the environment in both Planning Board and Select Board is not right and wants to hold the edits for a year. Candace DeCspikes inquires about specifics concerning the environment. Lois Kilby-Chesley explains there is authority in leadership which prevents the DHDC's wants and needs from being heard. She requests that the Durham Historic District Commission Members review the Select Board meeting. She will send the Durham Historic District Commission Members a link. Paula Purdy questions consequences of not moving forward. Lois Kilby-Chesley says the current language of 2002-2005 would still stand. Paula Purdy asks that if George Thebarger wishes to change our ordinances does he have the power to eliminate them. Lois Kilby-Chesley says that sending the articles opens the language to others' influence. Paula Purdy expresses reservations about whether people will understand the article changes and if they would even be open to being told what to do with their land.

Candance DeCspikes says she'd like to watch the video recording of the Select Board meeting and expresses reservations of her own. Paula Purdy suggests tabling the articles to focus on community outreach. Emily Alexander agrees that community outreach should be the next step.

- Emily Alexander leaves meeting

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Lois Kilby-Chesley takes over meeting minutes  
Minutes 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

After discussion on the future of the revisions to the Historic Resources and Historic Districts Articles of the Durham Land Use Ordinances, a motion was made and seconded, Discussion followed with members expressing concerns about moving Land Use Ordinances at this time. The motion: "To not send ordinance changes that pertain to Durham Historic District Commission or the Durham Historic District, in Article 5.14 Historic Resources and Article 12 Historic Districts, and Definitions, pertaining to Historic Resources, for consideration at Town Meeting 2024.  
Vote was unanimous.

Acceptance of June 8 minutes. Vote was unanimous  
Informational exchange. Lois reviewed the Select Board Meeting on August 8, 2023. Links were sent to Candace and Paula to review the YouTube of the meeting. Paula had forwarded Lois information from her cousin, Mark Kuehn, for a brochure for the Commission.  
This will be discussed at the next meeting as it appeared he had confused the Commission with the Historical Society.

We had a discussion on the importance of consistent meeting attendance. It was requested that Lois provide copies of the Bylaws and if necessary, that we add a section requiring consistent attendance and dismissing those who don't attend.

Next meeting. Thursday, September 14.

Motion to adjourn. Unanimous.