

Chapter XX **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

§ XX-1. Establishment; legislative authority.

Pursuant to the terms of Article III, Section 302, subsection A of the Town Charter, there is hereby established the Winchester Historical Commission.

§ XX-2. Purpose.

The purpose and intent of this ordinance is to safeguard the heritage of the Town of Winchester by preserving the elements of its historic, cultural, social, economic, political, and architectural history; to actively seek funding sources for historic preservation projects and to advise Town staff and elected boards and commissions on matters pertaining to historic preservation; and to promote the use of historic sites for the education, welfare and pleasure of the citizens of Winchester and of the general public.

§ XX-3. Membership; terms; vacancies.

A. Said Commission shall consist of up to seven (7) members, appointed by the Board of Selectmen, one of whom shall be the Municipal Historian (also known as the Town Historian). The terms of the six regular members shall be as follows: two members' terms expire December 31, 2024; two members' terms expire December 31, 2025; and two members' term expires December 31, 2026. Thereafter, the terms of all members appointed shall be for three years. The Town Manager may, for a period not to exceed one year, fill any vacancy for the balance of the term of such vacant position. "Vacancy," as used herein, shall be deemed to result upon the expiration of the term of a member or the resignation, removal from the Town of Winchester, or the death of any member. Nothing herein shall prohibit reappointment by the Board of Selectmen of a member at the expiration of their current term. All members shall be electors of the Town of Winchester and shall serve without pay.

B. In accordance with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes, Section 7-148(c)(5)(D), as it may be amended, there shall be a Municipal Historian. The Municipal Historian shall be responsible for the collection of information relating to the history of Winchester and for making the material regularly available and accessible to the public. The Municipal Historian shall be appointed by the Board of Selectmen for a period of three years at a time. The Municipal Historian shall be a full voting member of the Historical Commission.

~~C. Members of the Commission need not be residents of the Town of Winchester during their appointment to this body.]~~

§ XX-4. Powers and duties.

A. The Commission, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, shall designate sites and buildings owned or hereafter acquired by the Town of Winchester as historic land sites, and, upon such approval by the Board, such sites shall come under the purview of the Commission. The Commission may from time to time recommend to the Town Manager and Board of Selectmen the acquisition or relinquishment of additional historic land sites.

B. The Commission shall be charged with serving in an advisory capacity to guide the development, management, operation, improvement, and maintenance of the historic land sites so designated and shall, additionally, institute and carry out programs designed to acquaint the general public with the historical, cultural, and economic history of the Town of Winchester.

C. The Commission may create subcommittees of their membership to constitute Historic District Commissions for the purpose of working to establish and manage historic districts within the Town of Winchester.

§ XX-5. Officers; meetings; notification of meetings.

A. The Commission shall elect its own Chairman and such officers as may be necessary at any meeting in January of each year.

B. The Commission shall establish regular meetings at least once each month and designate the time and place thereof.

C. Each Commissioner shall be notified of all meetings, and public notice, on the Town's website and in the Town Clerk's Office in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, shall be given of all meetings.

§ XX-6. Transaction of business; records; monthly reports.

The Commission shall adopt rules and regulations for the operation of meetings and the transaction of business within its jurisdiction and shall keep records of all its proceedings in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

§ XX-7. Annual operating and capital budgets.

A. The Commission shall prepare a requested annual operating budget for the following fiscal year for submission to the Town Manager on or before the first day of January in each year.

B. The Commission shall submit recommendations to the Town Manager for historic preservation-related projects to be funded by the Capital Improvement Plan for the ensuing five-year period on or before the first day of January in each year.

§ XX-8. Charges for public use of historic sites.

The Commission shall make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen regarding reasonable charges for the use by the public of historic landmark sites and for any of its purposes as set out above.

§ XX-9. Requests for assistance.

The Commission shall have the right to call upon any other department of the town government for assistance in performing its duties. Any question as to what shall constitute a proper request for assistance shall be decided by the Town Manager.

§ XX-10. Acceptance of Gifts.

The Commission may receive gifts in the name of the municipality for any of its purposes and shall make recommendations regarding the administr~~ation~~er of the same for such purposes subject to the terms of the gift.

§ XX-11. Severability.

If any part of this ordinance shall be declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all other parts shall remain in full force and effect.