

Jabez Smith House Committee

Legislative Reference:

Town: Town Council Resolution, September 20, 1994.

Other Bylaws and/or Rules of Procedure: Deed dated November 14, 1974.

Type: Permanent.

Geographic Responsibility: Jabez Smith House, located on Rte 117, 259 North Road, Groton.

History: The Jabez Smith Family house and Homestead lot was given to the Town by quitclaim deed dated November 14, 1974 by Ann Graham Clarke, subject to the stated condition that the "...House...the grounds and trees on the...lot and the stone walls surrounding said Lot shall be kept, maintained and preserved by said Town of Groton in perpetuity as a historic site in their present general condition...the House shall be kept on its present foundation....furniture and furnishings shall be exhibited at...residence in perpetuity." The site is of considerable historic significance to the Town, having been one of the original land grants from the King of England and title having remained within the Nehemiah Smith family until the present conveyance to the Town. (TC Res 9/20/94) This Committee replaces the "Historic Properties Advisory Committee."

Powers and Duties:

General: The Committee promotes the educational, cultural, economic and general welfare of the public through the preservation and protection of the distinctive characteristics and historic nature of the Jabez Smith House and its association with the history of Groton.

It is responsible for the management, control, restoration and repair of the Jabez Smith House, together with the improvements appurtenant thereto and the furniture and furnishings therein. The focus is on the existing structures and their contents and not the undeveloped land.

The committee shall report directly to the Town Manager. (TC Res 9/20/94)

Specific: The Committee schedules public access, educational programs designed to bring to life the colonial and revolutionary period of history in Connecticut and Groton, and other historic pursuits. It advises the Town Manager in developing programs, provides creative/artistic/historic support for the Curator, and advises in matters of compliance with the wishes of the Ann Graham Clarke estate. The Committee and within the adopted Town Council budget, may take or acquire on behalf of the Town by gifts, donations or bequests of such items of personal property including historic articles and artifacts, furniture and furnishings for use and display at the House. The Committee shall present an annual report, through the Town Manager, to the Town Council, which report shall include if necessary a full accounting of all receipts, expenditures and activities for the period. (TC Res 9/20/94)

Appointing Authority: Town Manager, with formal consent of the Town Council. (TC Res 9/20/94)

Term of Office: Four (4) years, staggered. (TC Res 9/20/94)

Membership: Number: Five (5) members. (TC Res 9/20/94) **Requirement:** Resident electors.

Meeting Schedule and Location: Monthly at the Jabez Smith House.

Staff: Self-staffed, and Town Manager.

Records: Located in the Town Manager's office.

Agendas and minutes also on file in the Town Clerk's office.

Further information:

The Curator lives at the Jabez Smith House: 445-6689.

Town Manager: 441-6630.