

Ryan Knapp, Chair
Chris Smith, Vice Chair
Judit DeStefano
Chris Eide
Jordana Bloom
Cathy Reiss

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TOWN OF NEWTOWN

Minutes of the Legislative Ordinance Committee Meeting

The Ordinance Committee met on Tuesday December 8th, 2020 remotely via Google Meets. Mr. Knapp called the meeting to order at 7:30PM.

Present: Ms. Bloom, Ms. Reiss, Ms. DeStefano, Mr. Smith, Mr. Eide, Mr. Knapp and Community Center Committee Chair Kinga Walsh
Absent: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None.

Minutes:

Mr. Smith questioned the cost of the proposed municipal volunteer tax abatements as noted in the last minutes.

Ms. Reiss confirmed that it would be \$107,375 for the first step and \$216,754 for the total.

Ms. Reiss moved to approve the minutes of 11/17/20, Mr. Eide seconded. Approved (5-0) Mr. Smith abstained

Old Business

Formalization of a permanent Community Center Commission

Mr. Knapp invited Ms. Walsh to join the conversation.

The group discussed the role of the current committee and future commission which Ms. Walsh agreed is supportive and advisory. Final decision making will be by the First Selectman and Board of Selectmen. The Committee has voted on capital items for the budget, but it is more of a courtesy and for recommendation.

Ms. Walsh said that the Community Center is stand alone due to the GE grant, and budgetary discussions at the BOF and LC do not get into line item detail.

Mr. Knapp questioned it not being in the budget even if it is revenue neutral, suggesting that money still comes into and is distributed from the Town.

Ms. Reiss asked about the grant. It was explained that it is given to the Town in \$1M lump sums for the specific purpose and tracked separately.

Ms. Walsh explained that the goal of the center is to be self sustaining and was exceeding revenue projections prior to COVID-19. They have also formed a Friends of The Community Center group for support.

The group discussed the short term vs the long term dynamic as it relates to the taxpayers and taxpayer funds, with revenue being either above or below expenses in the future. The group also discussed the need to clarify the role now vs potentially doing it in the future.

Mr. Knapp asked about the membership number of 7. Ms. Walsh said it is hard to ask anyone to step back now. Mr. Knapp expressed concern in the future, finding members and keeping them engaged.

Property taxation of certain 501(c) type organizations

Mr. Knapp discussed the statute used in Woodbury and Attorney Grogin's concerns about how Woodbury narrowed their ordinance beyond statute.

Ms. DeStefano raised concern about setting a precedent with tax abatements.

Ms. Smith talked about the Mason's role, not being a charity or religious organization.

Ms. Bloom agreed this would open a can of worms, also noting that the group does not allow women in their membership.

Mr. Eide questioned if this was historic or an architectural treasure.

Ms. DeStefano asked if this is just a loophole to work past practice.

Mr. Knapp requested that he talk to First Selectman Rosenthal as it was his office that passed on the request for the LC to explore this.

First Responder's Property Tax Abatement

Mr. Knapp reported that he spoke to First Selectman Rosenthal and Patrick Reilly from the BoFC about the budget concerns. There is some time to wait for more budget clarity as it relates to COVID-19 and the state.

Mr. Smith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:20PM, Ms. Reiss seconded. All in favor

Respectfully Submitted,

Ryan W. Knapp
Ordinance Committee Chairman

DRAFT - Community Center

§ 1

Establishment.

The Town of Newtown hereby authorizes the establishment of a Community Center Commission, to consist of seven members to be appointed as hereinafter provided, and whose purpose and duties shall be as follows.

§ 2

Duties.

The Community Center Commission shall

A.

Annually review membership usage rules/guidelines and rental policies. Work with the Director and their staff to maintain up-to-date language.

B.

Collaborate with and support Director and department heads in developing and presenting annual budget to the Board of Selectmen,

C.

Work with Center staff to create and implement a variety of aquatics and dry space programming that attracts new users/members while retaining existing.

D.

Review long term capital and/or strategic plans. Ensure all members and non-members' needs are being met as best as possible within operating capabilities while striving to achieve or exceed the goal of revenue-neutral operating budget.

E.

Work with the Center director and staff to outline and review marketing plans and materials, with a focus on consistency and clarity in message.

F.

Collaborate with Friends of Newtown Community Center non-profit arm of Center to outline annual fundraising goals, such as scholarships, capital improvements, and programming.

G.

Offer representation of the Center to other Town Bodies to ensure collaboration and advocacy.

§ 3

Staff.-

Considering the recommendation of the Community Center Commission, the First Selectman shall have sole authority to employ such help as may be necessary to properly supervise, maintain and develop the goals and objectives of the Newtown Community Center.

§ 4

Finances.

A.

The funds available to the Newtown Community Center from any source shall be placed in the custody of the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown, to be held, administered and disbursed by the Financial Director as part of, and through, the Town of Newtown General Fund.

B.

The funds available to the Newtown Community Center from specific gifts or bequest shall be placed in the custody of the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown and shall be kept by the Financial Director in an account, which shall be known as the "Community Center ### Fund," which account shall be separate and distinct from all other Town accounts.

C.

The funds available to the Newtown Community Center from the collection of dues, fees, charges and other revenue sources shall be placed in the custody of the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown, and shall be kept by them, in an account known as the "Community Center Revenues Fund," [verify] which account will be separate from all other Town accounts.

D.

The Community Center Director shall regularly update the Community Center Commission on the finances of the Newtown Community Center and consider the input and recommendations of the Community Center Commission.

§ 5

Disbursement of funds.

A.

The Newtown Community Center shall adhere to the Town of Newtown Purchasing Policy. The Director of the Community Center shall authorize the disbursement of all funds appropriated by the Town of Newtown for Newtown Community Center purposes, by endorsement of his approval on all invoices and bills based on the approved budget for the fiscal year.

B.

Disbursements from the Community Center [name?] Fund shall be made on order of the Community Center Commission [current practice or Dan R and Matt A?], in accordance with the terms of the specific gifts or bequests, which make up said fund. With proper documentation, all checks drawn on said Fund shall be signed by the First Selectman and by the Financial Director of the Town of Newtown. The funds referred to herein are for the exclusive use of the Community Center Commission.

^^^ *verify with grant language*

§ 9

Annual budget.

A.

The Community Center Commission and the Director shall review budgets as requested by **department heads**, draw up an annual budget and present the same to the Board of Selectmen at a date determined by the Charter or the Financial Director. The budget recommendation shall include membership fees, rental fees and other revenue sources.

B.

As part of the budget process, the Commission shall consult and advise on contractual services, maintenance, capital projects and staff positions.

C.

Town's Finance Department input/collaboration will be included to ensure the facility is meeting town operating guidelines while also fulfilling any grant requirements until such time as that fulfillment need ends.

§ 10

Members.

A.

The Commission shall consist of seven members who shall be appointed by the First Selectman of the Town of Newtown with the approval of the Board of Selectmen and who shall serve without compensation.

B.

The initial members of said Commission shall be appointed for the following terms: two members to serve until December 31, 2021, one member to serve until December 31, 2022, one member to serve until December 31, 2023, and one member to serve until December 31, 2024; thereafter, the successive terms of members shall be for a period of four years.

C.

The Board of Selectmen may remove any member for cause and shall fill all vacancies.

D.

The Commission shall elect a Chairman from its membership; the Chairman shall appoint a Secretary, who shall be a member of the Commission.

Chapter 218. Taxation

Article VI. Abatement for Structures of Historical or Architectural Merit

[Adopted 5-17-2004, effective 6-7-2004 (Ch. 10, § 10-7, of the Town Code)]

§ 218-23. Abatement authorized.

Abatement of real property taxes on structures of historical or architectural merit in the Town of Woodbury may be allowed, in whole or in part, pursuant to the authority of C.G.S. § 12-127a.

§ 218-24. Determination of historical or architectural merit.

Structures shall be classified as having historical or architectural merit if they demonstrate significant historical or architectural value to the community, as determined in all cases by the Old Woodbury Historical Society. In cases where such a structure lies within an historic district, the Woodbury Historic District Commission must also concur that such structure demonstrates significant historical or architectural value to the community.

§ 218-25. Qualifications; liability for change in status of structure.

Such tax abatement shall be available to the owners of real property which is so classified if it can be shown to the satisfaction of the Town of Woodbury Board of Selectmen that the real property is not primarily used for residential and/or commercial purposes and the current level of taxation is a material factor which threatens the continued existence of the structure, necessitating either its demolition or remodeling in a manner which destroys the historical or architectural value. If, after taxes on such structure have been abated under the terms of this article, such structure is demolished or remodeled in a way which destroys its architectural or historical value, the then owner shall pay to the municipality an amount equal to the total amount of taxes which had been abated under the provisions of this article.

§ 218-26. Contracts of abatement.

A. Once a property has been classified as having historical or architectural merit, the Town of Woodbury may, by majority vote of the Board of Selectmen, enter into contracts with the owners of such properties granting abatement, in whole or in part, of the real property taxes on such structures. Such contracts shall require that the owner of the real property shall apply the money equivalent of the taxes abated to maintenance of the structure and/or its surrounding property and/or to reducing membership dues if such owner is a fraternal or philanthropic organization.

B. Each such abatement contract shall further:

(1) Specify the effective date of any such abatement;

(2) Specify the amount of any such abatement, including any formula for arriving at such amount;

(3) Specify the duration of the abatement, which shall not exceed the period equal to the remainder of the ownership by the then current owner; future owners may apply to the Board of Selectmen for a new abatement;

(4) Impose any limitations on such abatement as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; and

(5) Reserve the right, for the term of the contract, to redetermine the amount and/or duration of such abatement on an annual or other basis, if the Board of Selectmen so desires.

§ 218-27. State assistance.

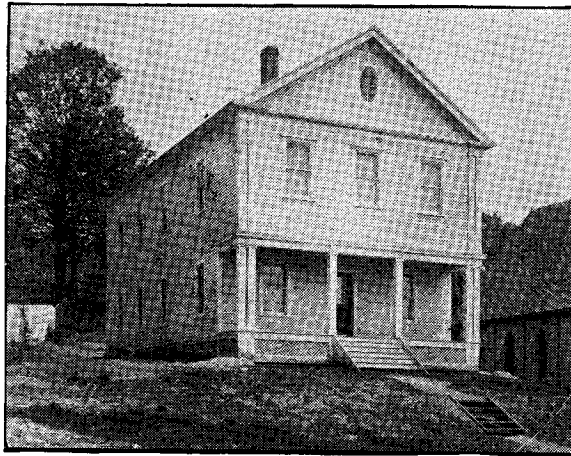
The Town of Woodbury may enter into contracts with the state for financial assistance reimbursing the Town for all or part of any tax abatement granted to the owner of a structure of historical or architectural merit in accordance with this article; provided, however, that such reimbursement by the state need not be a condition of any tax abatement hereunder.

Hiram Lodge, No. 18

A. F. and A. M.

Historical Sketch





Home of Hiram Lodge, No. 18, F. and A. M.

Historical Sketch of Hiram Lodge,
No. 18, A. F. and A. M.

Sandy Hook (Newtown)
Connecticut



Prepared, and Read at the Dedication of the new
Masonic Hall, June twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred
and seven, by the Reverend Otis Olney Wright. . .

Published by request of the Lodge.

NEWTOWN, CONN.:
THE BEE PUBLISHING CO.
1907

Historical Sketch.

The history of Hiram Lodge, No. 18, A. F. and A. M., is divided into two parts.

The first period of its records begins with the order for the institution of the lodge, dated at New Haven, Jan. 6th, 1791, and extends to April 15th, 1848. Its charter was revoked in 1851 and restored in 1866; accordingly the second period of its active existence dates from its revival in 1866 and continues until this present time. There are 57 years of ancient records and 41 years of modern, with a dormant space of 15 years between; our charter is, therefore, 116 years old.

In the limits of this sketch the writer can give but a simple outline of the leading events, with here and there a glimpse of the actual social life of the brethren as indicated in the minutes of their stated and special communications.

The order for the consecration of Hiram Lodge, No. 18 :

“New Town A. D. 1791, 5791, January 17th, Monday.

Hiram's Lodge Consecrated and the Worshipful Master Installed in due form by Right Worshipful Master Nathan Preston by virtue of a warrant from The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Connecticut, in the following words, *i. e.*—

To the Right Worshipful Nathan Preston, Master of King Solomon's Lodge in Woodbury :

Pierpont Edwards, Grand Master of the State of Connecticut, sendeth Greeting :

Whereas the Grand Lodge of sd (State) have constituted a lodge in Newtown (by the) name of Hiram Lodge and have (appointed) Brother Peter Nichols of said Newtown (to be Master) of said Hiram Lodge and said (brethren) have requested that the (said) Lodge should be (consecrated).

Words in parenthesis () doubtful.

I do therefore request and authorize to repair to said New Town on the third Monday inst. January and at such time and place in sd Newtown as said brother Nichols shall appoint to Install him in the presence of the said Lodge, first Master thereof, giving him the charges accustomed on such occasions and in particular that he regard the ancient land marks and great principles of the noble and blessed institution of Masonry—

Given under my hand in New Haven the sixth day of January A. L. 5791—

PIERPONT EDWARDS,
Gd Master."

Here follows the record of the institution of the Lodge, in accordance with the warrant given :

"Grand Lodge ss Newtown, Monday January 17th A. L. 5791—holden at the dwelling house of Brother Bennett Perry—

Present, Nathan Preston, D. Gd. Master P. T.

Bennett Perry, D. G. S. W., P. T.

Jonathan Prindle, G. J. W., P. T.

David Baldwin, G. S., P. T.

Andrew Beers, G. T., P. T.

Samuel Ferris, G. S. D., P. T.

David Beers, G. Std, P. T.

Amon Hard, G. J. D., P. T.

Elijah Sherman

John Clark

Garwood H. Cunningham

Oliver Peck

Curtis Wainwright

Zalmon Tousey, Jur.

Bro. Philo Perry' attended as Grand Chaplain and delivered a sermon on the occasion—

At this Grand Lodge Bro. Peter Nichols was Installed first Master of Hiram's Lodge"—

In the evening of the same day the Lodge met, and we have the following minutes:—

“Hiram's Lodge—

Holden in Newtown at the house of Bro. Bennett Perry,
Monday, January 17th, A. L. 5791—

Present, R. W. Br Peter Nichols, Master

Bennett Perry, S. W.

Jonathan Prindle, J. W.

Andrew Beers, Treas.

David Baldwin, Secy.

Zalmon Tousey, Jur.

Curtis Wainwright

Samuel Ferris

Amon Hard

David Beers

Nathan Preston, Visiting Bro.—

John Clark “ “

Garwood H. Cunningham “ “

Elijah Sherman “ “

Oliver Peck “ “

Lemuel Hawley “ “

Ezra Curtis “ “

Ebenezer French “ “

This evening was proposed—

Soloman Glover—Fee paid in part 36— paid.

John Sanford, Jur. do do in part 18— paid.

Moses Shepard ———— paid.

Daniel Crofut paid and Abram Baldwin—paid who were accordingly balloted for, accepted & Initiated in to the noble and Royal Art of Free Masonry.

Bro. John Williamson was passed to the degree of a Follow Craft—paid—also this evening Lemuel Hawley was passed to the Degree of Fellow Craft fee paid.

Andrew Beers Cr.

by cash advanced for the Constitution £3 . 8 - 0

by cash paid to John Williamson 2 - 8

Dr. to cash in part £3 .. 3 .. 0”

On the same page of the book of minutes we have this cash account between the Secretary and the Treasurer, which is interesting as showing how they started, financially, socially and from a business point of view.

"Hiram Lodge to David Baldwin Dr.

1791 January 15th	
to 5 officers Jewels	} £
of silver & a Square	
to 1 Lock for chest	2 .. 14 .. 2
to 7½ yds blue riband	.. 2 .. 4
to 1½ doz. glasses a	8d .. 5 ..—
to 1 bowl	6 / .. 9 .. 0
to 1 Gall. wine	.. 2 .. 4
to 2 qts rum	} for Installation
to 1 lb sugar	
to ½ quire paper for this book	.. 7 .. 9½
Feb. 2nd to 1 large spoon for the Lodge	8
	4 .. 6
	<u>£ 4-5-9½</u>

Contra Credit.

1791 January 17th—	
by cash from Abm Baldwin	—0 .. 12 .. 0
by reckoning and Cash	—0 .. 7 .. 9
Feb: 2nd by cash	0 .. 18 .. 3
	<u>1 .. 18 - 0</u>
Mar. 2nd by Credit	2 . 8 —
Andrews Beers	<u>£4 . 6 - 0"</u>

It is scarcely necessary to remark that they continued according to this beginning, and that as a matter of course the style of their refreshments was as common and approved to them as our is to us.

The original charter of this lodge, under which we are now working, bears the date of January 19th, 1791, and reads as follows:

"To all and every one, Right Worshipful and loving brethren, Free and Accepted Masons, now residing, or that

may hereafter reside in New Town in the county of Fairfield, and state of Connecticut. The right Worshipful Pierpont Edwards Esquire Grand Master of the Ancient and honorable society of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of Connecticut.

Sendeth Greeting.

Whereas Application hath been made unto us by Peter Nichols, and sundry other brethren, of the ancient and honorable Society of Free and Accepted Masons now residing in New Town aforesaid, that we would be pleased to constitute them into a regular Lodge and appoint their worthy brother Peter Nichols their first Master, and that also we would appoint Bennett Perry their first Senior Warden and Jonathan Prindle their first Junior Warden, with full power granted to them and their Successors, to rule govern and regulate the same that Masonry may increase & flourish in those parts.

Now Know Ye, That we trusting and relying on the fidelity, resolution and good conduct, and putting in them as special trust, have nominated, ordained, constituted and appointed Mr. Peter Nichols our right Worshipful & well beloved brother, to be the first Master of Hiram Lodge in Newtown aforesaid, and that our beloved brother Mr. Bennett Perry to the first senior Warden, & our beloved brother Mr. Jonathan Prindle the first Junior Warden of said Lodge and we do hereby empower him the said Master to congregate the brethren together, and form them into a regular Lodge, he taking Especial care in choosing the necessary officers for the due regulation thereof for one year, at the end thereof the Lodge shall have full power to choose and appoint their Master, & other officers, and so annually: The Master and Wardens for the time being taking especial care that all and every Member admitted into said Lodge from time to time have been or shall be made Regular Masons, and they the said Master, Wardens and brethren of said Lodge and their successors forever, are hereby required strictly to observe and obey such ordinances, and regulations as shall from time to time be communicated to them from this Grand Lodge,

agreeable to the Constitution thereof, and that they do annually send an account in writing to the Grand Lodge of the names of the Members that shall be made, passed, raised, or admitted in said Lodge, and their places of abode, & the day and place of making, with any other that they think proper to communicate for the benefit of their Lodge, and lastly that they do regularly communicate with the Grand Lodge by attending with their Master & Wardens or by sending to the half yearly Communications such Charities as their Lodge shall think fit, (for the) ———— for the relief of poor brethren. ————

Given under our hands and seal at New Haven this 19th day of January Anno Lucis five thousand seven hundred ninety one. ————

ELIAS SHIPMAN, Grand Sec'y.
PIERPONT EDWARDS."

The following minutes, made upon separate sheets of a different size, appear to be a report rather than a record; but there is no indication as to whom it was addressed:

"At Hiram Lodge Holden in Newtown on the 17th day of January A. L. 5791.

The following persons were Initiated into the Noble & Royal Art of Free Masonry viz—

Solomon Glover	}
John Sanford Jr	
Moses Shepard	
Daniel Crofut & Abram Baldwin	

"At Hiram Lodge holden at Newtown the 2d of March 5791 at this Lodge

Ezra Perry was Initiated into the Noble & Royal Art of Free Masonry——

"At Hiram Lodge held in Newtown by adjournment on the 7th day of March A. L. 5791— The following persons were Initiated into the Ancient, Noble & Royal Art

Viz:—John Lott Zibe Blakely—Silas Fairchild—Nathaniel Ruggles & Sherman Smith of Brookfield.

"Hiram Lodge held in Newtown on the 5th day of May
A. L. 5791

At this Lodge—Josiah Fairchild was Initiated into the
Antient, Noble & Royal Art of Free Masonry—

"The foregoing is a true return of the Initiations into
the Antient, Noble & Royal Art of Freemasonry in Hiram
Lodge in Newtown.

Attest

DAVID BALDWIN Sec'y.

Dated Newtown

May 10th A. L. 5791—"

In this connection, and before proceeding with the direct
history of Hiram Lodge, No. 18, I will insert here a copy of
what appears to be an official communication from the Master
of the original Hiram Mark Lodge to the first Master of this
Lodge. It is interesting and valuable as showing to what
extent the spirit of Freemasonry was abroad in this part of
the country, and as marking the beginning of Royal Arch
Masonry in Connecticut, in the institution of Hiram Chap-
ter, No. 1:

"Bro. Nichols, you are requested to Inform the Grand
Lodge that Holland Mark Lodge in New York have granted
a Dispensation & Installed Officers for a Hiram Mark Lodge
in New Town—and allso that the Holland Chapter of Royal
Arch Masons in New York have granted their dispensation &
Charter to certain Royal Arch Masons in Newtown & Installed
them in the several offices of the Chapter of Royal Arch
Masons in Newtown—& that the sd Mark Lodge & Royal
Arch Chapter are at present unable to open their Chapter in
so decent a manner as may be necessary & therefore we hope
the Grand Lodge will not exact the accustomed dues from
Hiram Lodge—but assist the sd Mark Lodge & Chapter of
Royal Arch with part of the dues from Hiram Lodge—

DAVID BALDWIN, Master."

The earliest records of this Lodge, and of Hiram Chap-

ter are of great interest and value, and they should be preserved with care, and without delay. In the nature of the case they supplement and illustrate the history of each other, the Lodge and the Chapter, and may serve to throw light upon many subjects of personal and family life.

The members of the Chapter were largely from the roll of Hiram Lodge; and the places of meeting have probably been the same, without exception. At first, as we have seen, the communications were held in Bro. Bennett Perry's house, at Newtown—in Newtown street, as we would say, or as we should say, perhaps, now the Bcrough; where it continued to meet until October 5, 1821, when it began to assemble at Bro. Czar Keeler's Lodge room, and apparently was located there, in a private house which stood just above Mrs. W. J. Beecher's residence, until Nov. 5, 1823, when it was removed to Wm. Blakesley's Lodge room, which was probably the ball room in the Blakesley house at the head of the street.

It may be said on good authority, I think, that Bennett Perry's house was that later known as Dick's Hotel, the site of which is now occupied by the Newtown Inn.

And so in the records of Hiram Chapter, No. 1, we find it meeting in "Bennett Perry's Lodge Room," 1797-1818, and later it is called "Bennett Perry's Chapter Room." The Chapter also met in Czar Keeler's Room, and Dec. 12, 1823, "At the Chapter Room at Wm. Blakesley's."

It is worthy of note at this point, that Mrs. Sarah Grace Glover, daughter of William Blakesley, found in the attic of the Blakesley house what is probably the original altar of Hiram Lodge, and a few years ago presented it to us, and it is here, in this hall.

The oil painting of the Trestle Board hanging in the East, was also discovered some years ago stowed away in a barn, and fortunately brought to light, retouched and saved to us as a relic, and a token of the zeal and enthusiasm of our ancient brethren of Newtown.

October 14, 1824, there was a movement made to build a Masonic Hall. "Voted, that the Master Lodge agree to build a Masonic Hall provided that the Chapter will defray one-half

of the expense." Later it was "Voted that Brothers Theophilus Nichols, Henry Dutton & Alexander Hall be a committee to act with the committee appointed to contract and build the Masonic Hall the above Committee to meet and confer with the committee appointed by the Chapter for the above purpose." And June 1, 1825, "Voted that this Lodge be adjourned to the Saturday previous to St. John's at 3 o'clock P. M.; and Voted that Brothers Tousey, John Nash & Macpherson Sherman be a Committee to move the furniture of the Lodge to the new Hall."

I have seen no mention of any dedication, but it is interesting to think that about this time 82 years ago, this Lodge was making itself a new home very much as it is this day.

The Lodge was incorporated by special act of the General Assembly the first Wednesday in May, 1825, and June 7, 1826, it was voted to get the Hall insured for \$500.

This Hall was sold by vote of the Lodge, April 15, 1848, to D. H. Belden, Esq., for one hundred dollars, and all the personal property was disposed of. Our town historian, Mr. E. L. Johnson, holds the opinion that this building became what is now the dwelling house belonging to Mrs. Charles Northrop.

March 2nd 5791.

"Voted that Bros

David Beers
David Baldwin
Bennett Perry
Samuel Ferris
Andrew Beers
Solomon Glover
John Sanford

Amon Hard be a committee to form a Code of By Laws for the Government of this Lodge & report"—

The writer has not discovered the report of this important committee. The records of the Lodge from Jan. 18th, 1792, to Jan. 4th, 1809, are missing, with few exceptions.

But as the minutes of Hiram Mark Lodge indicate a general state of activity during that period the natural inference is that this Lodge was prosperous, also.

There was an elaborate code of By-Laws, sixteen in number, the most of which are preserved, but several are missing. These rules and regulations are worthy of study, as indicating the morals and manners of those days. For instance:

3d "Whoever shall during Lodge hours be so rude as to Hiss at a Brother or at what he says or has said shall be forthwith solemnly excluded the Lodge till he has publicly owned his fault."

4th "If any member shall come to Lodge in an undress or Indecent dress he shall be fined one Shilling & excluded the Lodge that night which is to be left to the discretion of the Master and his men."

"12th If any Brother member of this Lodge shall neglect or refuse to subscribe and Conform to these by Laws he or they shall be excluded any future benefits of the same."

"14th The members of this Lodge shall be very cautious of their Behaviour both in Lodge and without that no unjust Reflections may be cast on the Royal Art."

These By-Laws, written on sheets, and fastened together, are signed by 66 members. As there are no dates given to show when they were made, or where they belonged, we can only infer as to the exact period which they represent. Out of the 66 names subscribed to the By-Laws of the Lodge, 18 of them, all residents of Newtown, apparently, are also to be found on the list of those who signed the By-Laws of the Chapter between March 3d, 1792, and May 5th, 1835, the date of the last minutes in the first book of Records of Chapter.

In this connection it should also be noted that the jurisdiction of the Chapter was at large, embracing a wide extent of country. One came from Farmington to be exalted, one from Litchfield, one from Norwalk, five from New Milford, one from Washington, two from Woodbury; from Southbury

one, from Danbury two, from Salisbury three; one from Derby, one from "Sterlingh;" from Huntington one, from Redding two, and from other places. Sixty-three in all had subscribed to the By-Laws of Hiram Chapter, No. 1, within that first period.

The men who founded this Lodge were real enthusiastic Masons. They were trying to be men. There was an earnestness and dignity in their proceedings which indicate a deep sense of obligation to each other, and a genuine reverence for the science of morality; they made some effort to be of use to one another. "Brotherly love, relief and truth" were not mere high sounding words to them. To use their oft repeated form of speech: Masonry was an "Antient, Noble and Royal Art." And they expected and required true masonic conduct and character in the brethren.

They aimed at real self-improvement by having lectures, orations, and other addresses. They met to listen to sermons on the anniversary of St. John Baptist, and on St. John Evangelist's Day. November 23, 1791, it was "Voted that we invite the Lodges of Danbury, Woodbury, Huntington, Stratford & Newfield to attend with this Lodge at the celebration of St. John on the 27th of December next." And a committee was appointed "to confer with the Revd Philo Perry to preach a sermon on sd day." The Rev. Philo Perry was the rector of Trinity Parish, and a member of Hiram Chapter, No. 1, R. A. M.

Within the first year of the Lodge it is recorded that "the Lodge gave Bro^r Williamson a Donation of three pounds L. M. being to assist him in Building his house."

Instances of relief in sickness and distress are not of uncommon occurrence in the records, and cases of discipline are noted from time to time. When personal differences arose between brethren, committees were appointed to examine into the difficulties, with a view to bring about reconciliation. If any brother failed to pay his bills he was somehow reminded of his duties and privileges as becomes a true Mason. May 4, 1825, it was "Voted that a Committee be appointed to inquire into the Character of the members of this Lodge &

enter a Complaint against such members as they find are in the habit of conducting improperly from the use of Spirits & Report them at the next summoned Lodge."

It is an example of fraternal faithfulness worthy of our imitation. Masons who prefer the associations of the bar-room to those of the Lodge, or neglect their families to the scandal of the town, or bring reproach upon our order by neglecting or refusing to pay their honest debts, deserve the prompt and decisive discipline of the Lodge, for their own good and the sake of the cause.

It should be noted that some of the most prominent citizens of Newtown were members of this ancient Lodge. Of the founders we know very little. Peter Nichols, the first Master, was born in 1732, died in 1799, and was the great-grandfather of Philo Nichols, formerly an active member. His name appears in the History of the Grand Lodge as a delegate from the Stratford Lodge to a conference of Lodges, April, 1783, to consider the organization of the Grand Lodge of Connecticut.

Bennett Perry was a doctor of medicine, and Jonathan Prindle, the grandfather of the late Abel Prindle, was a tailor by trade.

Nichols and Prindle and Sanford and Glover and Blackman are names that have come down through the century of our history, and are with us to-day. The first Junior Warden was Prindle, and the present Junior Warden is Prindle, though not of the same family.

David Baldwin, who spent his whole life in Newtown, 1758-1811, and was very active in Masonic circles, is described in the Fairfield County Record as "A merchant; a prominent and leading man; a militia general and popularly known as 'General.'"

Judge Samuel C. Blackman was a notable man in his day; attorney David H. Belden was another. The Rev. Daniel Burhans, 31 years rector of Trinity church, was an active Mason.

Asa Chapman, a Newtown man, was Master of this Lodge in 1800, and attended the session of the Grand Lodge. He

was the head of the Chapman Law school, and judge of the Supreme Court of this State; and his son, Charles Chapman, a distinguished lawyer, was a member of Congress and district attorney; and Henry Dutton, Master of this Lodge in 1827, was judge of the Supreme Court of Connecticut, and the governor of the State.

Of the causes which led to the decline and suspension of the Lodge, the last record of which was April 15, 1848, I am not prepared to speak.

In the beginning of the second book of Records, 1866, there is given a "synopsis of the events that lead to the revival of the old Charter, and also a short history of the Lodge from its foundation." And in this sketch the writer says that he has "not fully investigated the causes" which led to the suspension, but simply refers to "certain items appearing in the old Records."

There appears to have been some work, up nearly to the end, but a declining interest.

Nov. 3, 1841, it was "Voted that the Members of this Lodge who Refuse or neglect to attend the Regular Communications of this Lodge shall pay a fine of 25 cents and that those who refuse to pay shall be expelled"—

And so we leave the matter.

MASTERS.

Peter Nichols was the first Master, by appointment of the Grand Lodge.

By the terms of the first By-Laws (No. 10), officers were elected semi annually, in June and December. Accordingly, Bro. D. Baldwin was installed Master, July 6th, 1791, and his name appears as Master in the minutes, until the break in the records, Jan. 18th, 1792.

[I will give here the only other bit of record which is of special interest in this blank period:

"Open Lodge—August 3d, 1796–5796: Voted that the fees after this date for making, passing & raising, shall be conformable to the regulations of the Grand Lodge (viz)

Entering each Apprentice ten Dollars. Passing each Apprentice to the Degree of fellow Craft One Dollar. Raising each fellow Craft to the sublime degree of Master Mason Two Dollars. Notwithstanding any previous by law to the contrary

REUBEN H. BOOTH

Sec'y Protem."]

MASTERS.

David Baldwin, 1797 to 1803 ;
 Samuel C. Blackman, 1803 to 1808 ;
 Amos B. Fairman, 1808 to 1810 ;
 Timothy Shepard, 1810 to 1815 ;
 Daniel Blackman, 1815 to 1818 ;
 Marcus Botsford, 1818 to 1819 ;
 Daniel Blackman, 1819 to 1821 ;
 Wheeler Fairchild, 1821 to 1825 ;
 Daniel Blackman, 1825 to 1826 ;
 McPherson Sherman, 1826 to 1827 ;
 Henry Dutton, 1827 to 1829 ;

1829, no record.

Adoniram Fairchild, 1830, represented at Grand Lodge ;
 1831, no record.

Alexander Hall, 1832 to 1834.

From 1834 to 1848, the Grand Lodge has no returns.

Last records from Hiram, No. 18, in 1847. Charter given up in 1851.

On examination of the Records of the Lodge, I find that Henry Dutton was "Elected by unanimous Vote of the Lodge Worshipful Master for the ensuing year," Dec. 3, 1828, and that Daniel Blackman, S. W., acted as Master P. T. during 1829, and until Adoniram Fairchild was chosen Dec. 23d, 1829. Henry Dutton was present as Master at that meeting. Adoniram Fairchild served until Alexander Hall was installed 1832, and was re elected 1833, 1834, and onward until the

suspension ; the last communication being notified and summoned to be at his house

Julius Sanford, 1866 to 1867 ;
 William L. Horr, 1867 to 1868 ;
 George Woffenden, 1868 to 1870 ;
 Clark H. Lockwood, 1870 to 1871 ;
 William I. Sanford, 1871 to 1872 ;
 Charles Webster, 1872 to 1873 ;
 Rev. William N. Ackley, 1873 to 1874 ;
 James P. Wilson, 1874 to 1876 ;
 John L. Sanford, 1876 to 1877 ;
 William I. Sanford, 1877 to 1879 ;
 Somers D. Crofut, 1879 to 1882 ;
 Daniel H. Botsford, 1882 to 1883 ;
 John L. Sanford, 1883 to 1885 ;
 Anson P. Smith, 1885 to 1886 ;
 James M. Blackman, 1886 to 1889 ;
 John L. Sanford, 1889 to 1894 ;
 Josiah A. Tillson, 1894 to 1895 ;
 John L. Sanford, 1895 to 1896 ;
 Reuben B. Terrill, 1896 to 1899 ;
 John L. Sanford, 1899 to 1900 ;
 Edwards M. Smith, 1900 to 1902 ;
 Louis T. Briscoe, 1902 to 1905 ;
 Samuel W. Leshner, 1905 to 1907 ;
 Louis T. Briscoe, 1907.

STATISTICS.

Brother John H. Barlow, to whom I am much indebted for such facts as are here presented concerning Masters and Statistics, states that there are no records in the archives of the Grand Lodge giving any information as to the numbers of members during the first period. If the requirements of the Charter were complied with the records are missing, and a careful examination of the minutes of the Lodge would furnish only an estimate, at best.

As I have mentioned, the original By Laws were signed by 66 members.

Subscribers to the original By-Laws:

Moses Shepard	Philo Nichols
Amon Hard	Daniel Glover
Ezra Perry	Josiah Fairchild
John Sanford, Jr.	Joel Booth
Daniel Crofut	Joseph Foot
Solomon Glover	Lemuel Hawley
John Lott	Jabez Hurde
Ab ^m Baldwin	John Smith
Ziba Blakeslee	Enos Johnson
Peter Nichols, Master	George Foot, Jr.
Bennett Perry, S. W.	Luther Harris
Jonathan Prindle, J. W.	Reuben H. Booth
Andrew Beers	Oliver C. Hare
David Baldwin	Silas B. Judson
Samuel Ferris	Michael Parkes, Jr.
Curtis Wainright	Joseph Fairchild
Zalmon Tousey, Jr.	Daniel Baldwin
David Beers	Aron Gregory
Silas Fairchild	Oliver Tousey, Jr.
Sherman Smith	Mathew Curtis
Nathaniel Ruggles	James Stillson
Joseph Ruggles	Cyrus Prindle
Benj. ⁿ B. Bostwick	Eli Wheeler
Andrew Judson	Sam'l Beers
Peter Hurd	Gideon Peck
Judson Fairman	Liverus Peck
Abner Peck	James Sears
Stephen Fairchild	Lemuel S. Lauders
Joseph Perry	Moses H. Botsford, Jr.
Cyrenius Beers	Goold St. John
Timothy Shepard	Justus Platt
Joseph C. Baldwin	Simeon Glover
Adoniram Fairchild	Charles Burroughs

Another clue is found, as to the size of the Lodge, in the

fact recorded, that in 1827, ten years previous to suspension, 33 members had "Taken the T^t of the G. L. of Connecticut." This "T^t" was a secret test to detect false brethren, assure the true and faithful and expose spurious Masonry.

Names of brethren who have taken the T^t of G. L. of Connecticut:

Henry Dutton, W. M.	Sam'l C. Blackman
Theophilus Nichols, S. W.	Daniel Blackman
Prosper A. Foot, J. W.	Rev. Daniel Burhans
Samuel B. Peck, Sec'y	David Sherman
David H. Baldwin, Treas	Henry Sherman
Wakeman Smith, S. D.	Alexander Hall
Chas. Sherman, J. D.	Boyle Fairchild
Eli Wheeler, Tyler	Josiah Fairchild
John Wallace	Wheeler Fairchild
Chas. Botsford	Adoniram Fairchild
Mc Ph Sherman	Lucius Clark
Rufus Skidmore	Oliver Tousey
William Hayse	Chauncey B. Peck
Daniel Miller	Holly Judd
William Blakely	Sueton Shepard
Sollomon Glover	William C. Hawley
Thomas Blackman	

From this time forward to the close there was an average attendance of about ten.

From the beginning of the second period, 1866, to this date, the returns are complete. For the year ending May, 1867, 21 were initiated; the next year 15, and the third 14. Returns for 1870, report 57 members. In 1879 there were 72. In 1902, 10 were raised, the largest number in many years. At last report there are 82 members. There have been but two years in this period of 41 years in which no work was done: 1886 and 1894. The whole number registered in this period is 192, of whom 14 were admitted from other Lodges.

As to the causes of the revival of this ancient Lodge I can do no more, nor better, than to quote from the preface of the second book of Records: "It was a long time before Masonry revived in Newtown—not until the years 1860-6, when a decided reaction took place. Perhaps one of the great incentives to this was the war, which was about to be and was fought during those years.

"Two new Lodges had been organized, one at Bethel and one at Monroe, and to which members were added from Newtown."

It was through Eureka, No. 83, that the Charter was restored. Quoting from the Historical sketch of that Lodge—which has ever been a good brother to us: "April 3, 1866, a motion was passed to recommend the brethren of Newtown to the Grand Lodge, for granting them a dispensation, charter or warrant, empowering them to work as a regular Lodge."

Washington Lodge, No. 19, has also been near to us in all fraternal kindness and generosity.

And we should never forget that King Solomon's, No. 7, was really the first promoter and sponsor for Hiram, No. 18, in 1791.

The petition for the renewal of the charter was signed by: Julius Sanford, Wm. L. Horr, Geo. Woffenden, Scofield I. Lamb, Smith P. Glover, Wm. E. Ackley, Aaron Sanford, J. A. Wilson, A. Warner, G. A. Hough and W. C. Perkins, all of whom were of Eureka, No. 83, except J. A. Wilson of Montgomery, No. 13, of Salisbury, Conn.; A. Warner of Washington, No. 19, Monroe; and W. C. Perkins, of Roxbury, Mass.

"This petition was granted by the Grand Lodge at its annual communication, May 1866, at New Haven."

Bro. Julius Sanford was first Master, Bro. Wm. L. Horr the first S. W., Bro. George Woffenden, first J. W.

The first place of meeting was fitted up by Bro. Julius Sanford, in his building by the roadside, near the Foundry pond, now occupied by John Carroll, in which the first installation of officers was held June 25, 1866.

In 1873 the Lodge was removed to the Hall owned by Bro. Smith P. Glover, where it continued until the building was destroyed by fire May 31, 1905, when it found temporary accommodations in Minott Augurs' Hall, over the Sandy Hook Market.

June 21, 1906, it was voted to build a new Masonic Hall, provided the money can be raised. The money was raised, and Brothers

A. M. Briscoe,
L. C. Morris,
C. P. Northrop,
S. A. Blackman, and
G. A. Northrop

served as the building committee.

The amount of the contract was \$2,949.50.

The Hall being completed, or nearly so, the Lodge moved into it Nov. 21, 1906. It is paid for and awaits its dedication as the permanent home of Hiram Lodge, No. 18, Hiram Chapter, No. 1, R. A. M. and Jephtha Chapter, No. 51, Order of the Eastern Star.

List of Members

OF HIRAM LODGE, No. 18, F. AND A. M., ON NOVEMBER
FIFTEENTH, 1907.

Armstrong, James	Lesher, Samuel W.
Ackley, Wm. E.	Morris, Charles G.
Blackman, James M.	Morris, Levi C.
Blackman, John H.	Morris, Curtis P.
Blackman, Samuel A.	MacPherson, Charles A.
Betts, Ralph G.	McGuire, Frederick E.
Blackman, Austin B.	Northrop, George A.
Barnette, Wm. M.	Northrop, Edgar F.
Baldwin, Homer W.	Northrop, Chester P.
Bassett, Albert W.	Nettleton, Arthur T.
Beardsley, John W.	Nichols, Lester B.
Betts, Gustavus A.	Prindle, William H.
Briscoe, Alfred M.	Platt, Edmund C.
Briscoe, Louis T.	Peck, Hermon H.
Bristol, Thomas P.	Pitzschler, G. O.
Boisvert, Robert E.	Peal Charles A.
Barnum, Samuel A.	Parsons, Herbert A.
Bacon, David C.	Post, Harry M.
Beers, Henry L.	Rice, William A.
Canfield, Charles W.	Sanford, John L.
Carpenter, William S.	Sanford, Stephen E.
Clarke, Abel F.	Schuyler, Albert A.
Coles, James	Shepard, Willis A.
Coger, Henry B.	Smith, Edwards M.
Coger, Frank W.	Smith, Allison P.
Dayton, George	Sanford, Paul J.
Flansburgh, Herbert	Taylor, Ammon
Flye, George H.	Thompson, Noyes
Gilbert, Charles E.	Tillson, Josiah A.
Glover, Smith P.	Tugnot, George G.
Gray, Raphael S.	Turrill, Ruben B.
Griffin, Bruce N.	Taylor, George F.
Gale, Frank J.	Taylor, Lawrence
Hawley, Arthur S.	Wright, Otis W.
Henderson, David	Wright, Frank
Hughes, John L.	Wheeler, Hervey W.
Hibbard, William C.	Warner, Hobart G.
Jacoby, Horace L.	Warner, Carlos S.
James, Jesse A.	Warner, Harvey D.
Longstreet, Alva	Wakelee, William H.
Leonard, William A.	

Printed by vote of the Lodge, Allison P. Smith, committee in charge.