

BY-LAWS
of
The New Hope Improvement Association, Incorporated

PREAMBLE

We, the citizens and free holders residing in and surrounding the New Hope Creek Area of Durham and Orange Counties do unite to establish a non-profit permanent organization.

Article I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the New Hope Improvement Association, Inc.

Article II: OBJECT

The object of this non-profit organization shall be to promote the common good of the residents and/or property owners or interested citizens of the New Hope Creek Area, by providing a means of voicing the vote of the majority of the area and to further provide the necessary facility or organizations to protect the life, property and interest of the members of the community within the New Hope Creek Area.

Article III: MEMBERS

Section 1: Any adult resident and/or property owner of the New Hope Creek Area shall be eligible to membership and shall be declared a member of the association upon payment of the annual dues for the first year.

Section 2: The annual dues shall be five (\$5.00) dollars per household per year and payable at the first meeting of each year or within a ninety (90) day period. New members joining the Association for the first time after October 1 shall be considered paid members for the following year. The Board of Directors shall have the authority to waive dues in hardship cases. Members who are not current with annual dues shall forfeit their right of vote, holding office and other Association benefits.

Section 3: Any member desiring to resign from the Association shall submit his resignation in writing to the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Upon the signed recommendation of one member, seconded by another member, and by a three-fourths vote of the members present at a general meeting, honorary membership can be conferred upon an adult who shall have rendered or is rendering notable service to the Association. An honorary member shall have none of the obligations of membership in the Association, but shall be entitled to all the privileges except those of making motions, of voting, and of holding office.

Section 5: Any member may be expelled, upon the recommendation of the Board of Directors and a vote of more than ten (10) percent of the membership in favor of expulsion and said expelled member shall be then denied the rights and privileges of membership in the Association.

Article IV: OFFICERS

Section 1: The Officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and such other officers as the Association shall desire to elect. Elections shall be held at the Annual General Meeting in November preceding the end of the two year term. They shall take office at the first general meeting in January after they are elected and hold office for two years or until their successors are elected.

Section 2: At the general meeting held in October a Nominating Committee of five members shall be elected by the Association. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the offices to be filled at the next general meeting. Nominations from the floor shall be permitted.

Section 3:

a. The President shall preside and be responsible for the conduct of the meetings. He shall also serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

b. The Vice-President shall preside in the absence of the President. He shall also serve as Chairman of the Membership Committee.

c. The Secretary shall be responsible for the clerical records of the Association. The Secretary is also responsible to promulgate notices of general meetings.

d. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all finances and financial records of the Association. He or she shall also be on the Financial Committee.

Article V: MEETINGS

Section 1: Unless otherwise ordered by the Association or by the Board of Directors, a monthly meeting shall be held at a time and place set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: All elections shall be scheduled one meeting in advance.

Section 3: The regular meeting in the month of November shall be known as the Annual Meeting and shall be for the purpose of electing officers when required, receiving reports of officers and committees and for any other business for which is required.

Section 4: A called meeting of the Association may be called by the President of the Association, or a majority of the Board of Directors, or any five members of the Association request to the President of the Association or the next senior officer in their absence. Every effort shall be made by the President and/or his/her designee to notify all members of the meeting, the time, place and business to be acted on. Only agenda business shall be acted upon at the meeting.

Section 5: Ten percent (10%) of the total membership shall be considered a quorum.

Article VI: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and New Hope Fire Chief as well as 3 – 9 “at large” members of the Association, elected by the membership. A Chairman of the Board shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors. The terms of the Directors shall be two years but shall be staggered so that approximately one half of the members of the Board shall retire each year.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall have the general supervision of the affairs of the Association between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Association and shall perform as are specified in these by-laws. The Board shall be subject to the orders of the Association and none of its acts shall conflict with the action taken by the Association.

Section 3: Unless otherwise ordered by the Board, a regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held quarterly or upon call.

Section 4: A special meeting of the Board may be called by the Chairman or any two members of the board. The person or persons calling the meeting shall be responsible for notifying all members of the Board of the meeting time, place and the business to be acted on. Only agenda items may be acted upon.

Section 5: Fifty (50%) of the total members of the Board shall be considered a quorum.

Article VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Association shall have the following standing committees: Nominating, Finance, Building & Grounds, Program Committee, Membership and other such committees as required to carry out the purposes and functions of the Association.

Section 2: The President shall appoint all committees except the Nominating Committee. The Board of Directors shall recommend a nominating committee to the Association at a general meeting and the Nominating Committee shall be elected by the Association members. Nominations from the floor are permitted.

Article VIII: FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Membership of the New Hope Improvement Association shall sponsor and support a volunteer fire department to serve the residents of the New Hope Creek Area or such district that may be created.

Article IX: RESCUE SQUAD

The Membership of the New Hope Improvement Association shall sponsor and support a volunteer rescue squad to serve the residents of the New Hope Creek Area or such district that may be created.

Article X: SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

The Membership of the New Hope Improvement Association shall sponsor and support other volunteer community service organizations to protect life and property. It shall further sponsor and support, as directed by the membership, other volunteer civic activities or organizations to further the interest, common good, health and welfare of its members and the community.

Article XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Association in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with the Association's By-Laws.

Article XII: AMENDMENT OF THE BY-LAWS

By-Laws may be amended at any regular business meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present, a quorum being present, and provided proper notice of said proposed amendment has been given to the members prior to said meeting.

Article XIII: DISSOLUTION

In the event the Association has been inactive for a period of three (3) years any three members may, after notice to all known members, dissolve the corporation and donate any remaining assets to an organized charitable, religious, benevolent, educational or similar purpose organization of their choice.

Revised from April 20, 1976 version and adopted June 20, 2010