

Suffield Historical Society
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June 1, 2010

To the Members of the Suffield Historical Society:

The Suffield Historical Society Board of Trustees has voted to propose several changes to the Society's bylaws. The proposed changes will be considered and voted on at the Annual Meeting to be held on Wednesday, June 16, at 7:30 pm at the Kent Memorial Library, Suffield. The proposed changes are as follows [changes are in bold print]:

1. To add the Society's Mission Statement to the bylaws' introduction:

Bylaws of the Suffield Historical Society,
whose mission is to collect, preserve, and stimulate interest in the history of Suffield and the region and to actively share it. The Society hopes to inspire a sense of community, as well as to provide an understanding and appreciation of Suffield's past.

2. To change the timing of the Society's Annual Meeting, which will accommodate possible conflicts in future years:

CHAPTER IV. ARTICLE 1. The Annual Meeting of the Society shall be **held in May or June of each year**, notice of which, containing the list of nominations for officers, Trustees, and Trustees of the King Property, shall be sent to the members by the Secretary not less than seven days in advance of the date of the meeting.

3. To change the election cycle of Society officers:

Chapter VI. ARTICLE 1. The officers of the Society shall be: President, who shall be ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Vice President; Secretary, who shall be ex-officio Clerk of the Board of Trustees; Treasurer; Historian; and Curator. **The officers shall serve for two-year terms or until their successors are duly elected. The officers shall be elected in alternate years: President, Secretary, and Curator in one year; Vice-President, Treasurer, and Historian in the following year.**

4. To make the Society's Executive Committee responsible for appointing a financial professional to review the Society's accounts and securities. On the advice of the

Society's current Certified Public Accountant, it is also proposed to amend bylaw references from "auditor" to "financial professional."

CHAPTER IX. ARTICLE 4. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year the **Executive Committee** shall appoint a **financial professional** not a member of the Board of Trustees to examine the Society's operating accounts and the securities in the Treasurer's hands for the Society's fiscal year, and the **Executive Committee** shall report thereon at the Annual Meeting. Said **financial professional** may, with the assent of the Executive Committee, employ appropriate professional assistance.

CHAPTER XIV. ARTICLE 4. Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the **Executive Committee** of the Society shall appoint a **financial professional**, who is not a Trustee of the Society, to examine the funds under the management of the Investment Committee for the Society's fiscal year. The Treasurer shall report thereon in writing at the Annual Meeting of the Society. Such **financial professional** may, with the assent of the Executive Committee, employ appropriate professional assistance.

5. To eliminate the Trustees of the King Property. [President's note: The Spencer Trust is no longer the sole financial source for maintaining the King Property.] It is proposed to delete the following and all other references to the Trustees of the King Property in the bylaws:

CHAPTER XII. TRUSTEES OF THE KING PROPERTY

NOTE: On September 29, 1960, Samuel R. Spencer deeded the King Property to the Suffield Historical Society "...to better enable said Society to carry out the purposes for which it is organized..." Subsequently, by the February 11, 1961, First Codicil to his will, Mr. Spencer left a trust fund of \$75,000, whose income, after the use of up to \$10,000 of the principal for repair and restoration in preparation for public display, was to be expended for maintenance of the property by a board of trustees, of who three were to be appointed annually by the Society.

ARTICLE 1. Three Trustees of the King Property shall be elected annually for one-year terms at the Annual Meeting of the Society. They shall consist of the President and two other members. ARTICLE 2. The Trustees of the King Property shall represent the Society on the board of trustees established by Samuel R. Spencer to expend the income of the Spencer Trust Fund for the maintenance of the King Property.

The Society's current bylaws are available at the King House Museum or the Society's website (www.suffieldhistoricalsociety.org).

Sincerely,
Nancy Noble
Secretary, Suffield Historical Society