

THE
CONSTITUTION
OF THE
HEDDING CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATION

August 2024

**CONSTITUTION OF THE HEDDING CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATION
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

ARTICLE 1

This association shall be called and known by the name of the Hedding Camp Meeting Association as designated by an act of incorporation in the acts of 1863 of the New Hampshire Legislature.

ARTICLE II

Object

The object of the Association shall be to foster and advance the highest spiritual interests through sponsoring and promoting Camp Meetings, other religious assemblies, and such education, social and recreational life as may be deemed consonant therewith and contributory thereto, in the Town of Epping, county of Rockingham, and State of New Hampshire.

ARTICLE III

Membership

The membership of the Association shall consist of the following:

SECTION I. CLERGY

The District Superintendent and all preachers in charge of a United Methodist church in the District to which Hedding belongs. No dues shall be charged this class of membership.

SECTION II. OWNERS OF COTTAGES

Any person whose name appears in the title of the cottage shall be a member of the Association. Such person shall have full voting powers, with the proviso, that only one person per cottage, under this class of membership, may exercise that right at an official meeting of the Association.

When no such member can be present at a meeting, he or she may issue a proxy to some other member or Associate Member of the Association. An owner of more than one cottage shall be entitled to one vote for each cottage. At any official meeting of the Association no individual may exercise more than two (2) proxy voting rights. The privilege of voting by proxy is extended to this class of membership only.

SECTION III ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Members under this section must be nominated by a cottage owner and approved by the Board of Trustees. Not more than one Associate Member per cottage shall be approved.

Additional Associate Members, limited to 20% of the number of cottage may be approved on nomination by cottage owners, provided that no cottage will have more than two Associate Members. They shall pay a yearly fee as approved by the Annual Meeting and shall be eligible to vote at the next Annual Meeting following the approval. These changes apply to memberships after August 18, 2001.

Applicants for Associate Members should be given a copy of the Rules and Regulations and Constitution of Hedding Camp Meeting Association and be required to provide the same three references as are now required of those purchasing cottage. Changes apply to memberships after August 16, 1997.

Any member of the Association, with the exception of members qualifying under section I, in arrears in payment of assessments and/or dues for two (2) consecutive years shall forfeit the rights of membership in the Association. Said members may be reinstated upon payment in full of delinquent assessments and/or dues.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

The officers of said Association shall be President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Trustees' Comptroller, a Recorder, an Auditor, and a Board of six Trustee. The District Superintendent of the United Methodist Church district in which Hedding belongs shall, ex-officio, be President. The Secretary, the Treasurer, and at least two thirds of the Trustees and of the Standing Committee of Three on Nominations shall be members of the United Methodist Church. The President of the Association and the Trustees' Comptroller shall be ex-officio members.

The Secretary, the Treasurer, the Trustees' Comptroller, the Recorder, the Auditor and Standing Committee of Three on Nominations shall be elected annually at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees shall be so elected that, at each Annual Meeting, two vacancies shall occur and two Trustees be elected for a term of three years. Vacancies occurring in any office in the interim of the Annual Meeting may be filled by the Board of Trustees until the Annual Meeting following, when any vacancy in the Board of Trustees shall be filled by the Association for the unexpired term in the regular manner.

All officers shall be elected by ballot.

All elected officers except Trustees shall take office on the first day of January following their election. Trustees shall take office immediately following their election at the Annual Meeting.

ARTICLE V

DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS

The **PRESIDENT** shall preside at all meetings of the Association. In case he/she cannot be present to assume his/her duties he/she shall choose a President pro tem to preside in his/her place. The President shall have control and direction of the Camp Meetings and other religious assemblies sponsored by said Association, and, with the counsel of the Board of Trustees, shall fix dates of same.

The **SECRETARY**, having taken proper oath of office, shall keep a true record of all meetings and action of the Association and shall issue the call for the Annual Meeting or any Special Meeting of the Association.

The **TREASURER** shall be the custodian of all land deeds, wills, estate papers and religious funds of the Association, shall disburse such funds at the order of the Annual Meeting or the Religious Life and Personnel Committee and shall present at each Annual Meeting a full and accurate report of all receipts and expenditures for the year.

The **TRUSTEES' COMPTROLLER**, shall be custodian of all insurance policies and all funds of the Association except religious funds, shall distribute such funds at the order of the Annual Meeting or of the Board of Trustees, shall collect annual levy and other charges on cottages and buildings: shall assist the Board of Trustees in all financial matters including the preparation of the annual budget and shall present at each Annual Meeting a full and accurate report of all receipts and expenditures for the year and of the general financial condition of the Association.

The **RECORDER** shall maintain a plan of the grounds; shall provide forms for assignment and transfer of leased lots; shall with the approval of the Trustees in each case record and maintain records of changes in the assignment or transfer of leased lots; and shall report such changes to the Trustees' Comptroller and the Secretary of the Association.

The **AUDITOR** shall perform the usual duties of such an officer.

The **BOARD OF TRUSTEES** shall annually organize by the election of a Chairman and Secretary among its own members, and make such rules and regulations as may be found essential to the safety and welfare committed to its charge. Its Chairman and Secretary shall be authorized to execute all documents for said Association. Land deeds must be approved by vote of the Association, and a certified record of said vote shall be transmitted by the Secretary to the Board. It shall have the custody care, control and management of all property of whatsoever description of the Association, except such as may herein be expressly delegated to other officers of the Association.

The Board of Trustees shall prepare for and present to the Annual Meeting for their consideration and adoption an operating budget, which shall include all estimated costs for the operation of the Hedding Camp Meeting Association for the next year. Said budget shall include expenses for water system, street lighting, general operating expenses, and any special expenditures to be considered for the ensuing year.

An annual ley on cottages shall be based on the current valuation placed by the Town of Epping. This levy shall be made on a percentage basis as recommended by the Board of Trustees with any change voted upon at the Annual Meeting of the Association. It shall fix the charges for the use of water and for any other public services, expense of which has been voted by an Annual Meeting to be charged against the cottage owner.

It shall enforce the observance of all Rules and Regulations adopted with by the Annual Meeting or by the Board of Trustees.

The Trustees shall make to each Annual Meeting a full report of the work for the year, together with such recommendations as it relates to future policy and procedures.

The STANDING COMMITTEE OF THREE ON NOMINATIONS shall prepare its report and post the same at the Hedding Post Office or in a prominent location on the Hedding Camp Ground each year before noon of the Saturday preceding Camp Meeting Week.

ARTICLE VI

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of this Association shall be held at such place as the Board of Trustees may determine. The Annual Meeting shall be called for Saturday Afternoon of Camp Meeting Week, and the general order of business shall be:

1. Distribution of ballots, preferably at the door
2. Prayer
3. Reports of Constitutional Officers
4. Election of Officers
5. Other reports
6. Old and New Business
7. Announcement of result of election

A special meeting the Hedding Camp Meeting Association may be called by a vote of the Board of Trustees or at the written request of twenty members of the Association – a notice of such meeting shall be posted FOURTEEN (14) days prior to the selected date of such meeting and sent to all members of the Association.

ARTICLE VII

Forfeiture

Lots not built upon within two years of their being leased may be declared forfeited by the Board of Trustee, in which case money originally paid for the leases shall be refunded. Provided, however, that lessee be given one year of grace in which he/she would have the right to build if he/she so desired, notice in writing thereof to be given the lessee by the Secretary of the Board.

For the purpose of this article a group of contiguous lots of common ownership shall be considered one lot.

ARTICLE VIII

Quorum

Thirty-five members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Association.

ARTICLE IX

Dissolution and Distribution of Estate

The assets of the Association shall be held subject to the following conditions namely:

When the property of the Association may cease to be needed and used for the purposes set forth in Article II, it shall then be conveyed and transferred to the Preachers' Aide Society of the New Hampshire Conference of the United Methodist Church to be made an invested fund, the interest of which shall be distributed annually for the support of the retired members of said Conference, and distributed by the stewards of said Conference as a part of the funds of said Society, and for no other purpose.

ARTICLE X

Amendment

These articles may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any Annual Meeting of the Association or at any Special Meeting of the Association called for such purpose provided that such amendments have been submitted in writing at the previous Annual Meeting of the Association, or at a Special Meeting of the Association, in which fourteen (14) day notice of such meeting and the purpose thereof shall be given to all voting Members of the Association by mail directed to their last known address.