

**COLUMBIA LODGE NO. 25
A.F. & A.M**

LODGE BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I

COMMUNICATIONS

Section 1. The stated communications of this Lodge shall be held on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM, except during July and August.

Section 2. All stated communications of the Lodge shall be held in the Lodge room located at 895 Main Street, South Glastonbury, Connecticut unless notified otherwise.

Section 3. The Annual Meeting of the Lodge shall be held at a Stated Communication in the month of December.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Officers of this Lodge shall be the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, Secretary, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Chaplain, Marshal, Organist, Tiler, Historian and Almoner.

Section 2. The Duties of the several officers shall be those prescribed by the Constitutions, Masonic Law, Practice, Rules and Regulations, together with the "Statement of Principles" and the "Ancient Charges" of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of the State of Connecticut.

Section 3. The Senior Deacon, Chaplain, Marshal, Stewards, Organist, Tiler, Historian and Almoner shall be appointed by the Worshipful Master elect. The Junior Deacon shall be appointed by the Senior Warden elect. All the other officers shall be elected by ballot at the Annual Communication.

Section 4. The Officers of the Lodge shall be installed at a stated or special communication on or before January 15th.

Section 5. No officer of this Lodge, elective or appointed, shall be entitled to or paid any compensation or remuneration for services provided.

ARTICLE III

TRUSTEES

Section 1. There shall be three Trustees. At each annual election, one shall be chosen by ballot to serve for three years. The Trustees shall hold in trust for the Lodge all personal property, including funds belonging to it; and shall have the power to invest, collect, reinvest and manage said funds and property, as the Lodge may direct.

Section 2. Any vacancy in the office of Trustee may be filled by ballot at any stated communication, notice of such election having been given at the preceding stated communication.

Section 3. The Trustees shall furnish to the Lodge, at the Annual Meeting, or at such other times as directed by the Lodge, a written report of the income collected and disbursements made since the last report to the Lodge; as well as the monies, investments and other property currently held by the Trustee(s).

ARTICLE IV

COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Worshipful Master-Elect shall on or before his installation, appoint a committee of three Auditors whose duty it shall be to examine the books and accounts of the Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees and audit all accounts referred to them by the Lodge. The fiscal year of the Lodge Accounts shall be November 1st to October 31st. They shall present an audit at the Annual Communication. Additional audits shall be made as the Worshipful Master directs.

Section 2. A Budget Committee consisting of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Secretary and Treasurer, shall prepare and submit to the Lodge at the first stated communication in October, a budget covering the estimated receipts and expenditures of the Lodge for the following year. Said budget must be balanced. Should the projected expenditures exceed anticipated receipts, the deficit must be made up by specified fund raising activities at the direction of the Senior Warden.

Section 3. All reports of committees shall be submitted in writing at the time of the Annual Meeting or at any time at the request of the Worshipful Master.

Section 4. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a Committee on Welfare and Relief, whose duty it shall be to call all members sick or in distress and to offer such cheer and comfort as may be possible. They shall report their action to the Lodge at the next communication.

Section 5. The Worshipful Master shall appoint a committee of three members upon the petition of every candidate for initiation or affiliation, whose duty it shall be to diligently inquire into his internal and external qualification, and report thereon at the following Stated Communication, or as soon thereafter as possible.

ARTICLE V

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Every candidate for initiation must present a petition in due form, accompanied by a petition deposit, as determined by the Lodge, which shall be in part payment of the candidate fees. If the candidate is rejected, the deposit shall be returned to him without delay. When accepted, if he shall neglect to present himself for initiation within three months thereafter, without a reasonable excuse, his deposit shall be forfeited for the use of the Lodge.

Section 2. A Master Mason of another Lodge, who may wish to become a member of this Lodge, must submit a petition for Affiliation.

ARTICLE VI

FEES

Section 1. The fees to be paid by each candidate shall be established at the Annual Meeting, but shall, in all cases, be at least the minimum fee as prescribed by the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations. In addition to the above, he shall pay any fees or assessments as may be levied by this Lodge, and/or the Grand Lodge.

Section 2. The fee for affiliation from within the grand Jurisdiction of Connecticut and from other Grand Jurisdictions shall be established at the Annual Meeting, but shall, in all cases, be at least the minimum fees as prescribed by Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations.

ARTICLE VII

DUES

Section 1. At the first stated communication in October there shall be established:
Lodge annual dues, payable by each member of the Lodge,
Lodge Assessments as may be necessary for specific purposes,
All fees, per capita tax and assessments as levied by the Grand Lodge.

Dues are payable on the first day of January of each year. All members shall continue to pay Annual Dues except 50-year members who are exempt from all dues.

Section 2. Any member of the Lodge, neglecting or refusing to pay his Annual Dues for the period of one year may be struck from the roll of membership by a majority vote of the Lodge, thirty days previous notice having been served, in accordance with Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations #4700 through #4706.

Section 3. A Brother whose name has been struck from the rolls for non-payment of dues is an unassociated Mason and can regain membership upon his written application and by a two-thirds

majority vote of the members present, and payment of his indebtedness at the time he was dropped.

Section 4. The payment of all indebtedness to the Lodge shall be a condition prior to the granting of a dimit to any member.

Section 5. At the second stated Communication in September of each year, the Worshipful Master shall cause to be read a list of all of the members who have not paid their Annual Dues for the current year, and if any such dues shall remain unpaid after the second stated Communication in October, the Secretary shall then issue a notice to the delinquent members according to Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations, unless the Lodge by vote, shall have remitted the dues, or granted further time for payment.

Section 6. (a) A dues-paying member who is current with all financial obligations of said Lodge may preclude the payment of future Lodge Dues by becoming a “Life Member” through the payment of an amount to be set each year at the Annual Meeting by one of the following two plans:

1. The entire sum plus current Lodge Dues and Assessments to be paid in a single calendar year.
2. Three annual payments plus current Lodge Dues and Assessments during each of three successive years. If this plan is elected by a member and payments are not completed in accordance with this plan, the member will not be a “Life Member” and the funds that were paid, without interest thereon, shall be applied each year to pay such member’s Lodge Dues until the funds are completely depleted.

In either the one or three-year payment plan, the Brother becomes a “Life Member” in the year following the completion of all payments.

(b) The principal of the Life Membership payment or payments shall remain permanently in Trust with the Trustees of the Lodge and the income shall be used for Lodge purposes. Such purposes include, but are not limited to (1) satisfying Annual Dues; (2) such other purposes as the Lodge may direct. Upon the death of a life member, the principal of his Life Membership shall remain within the Life Membership fund.

ARTICLE VIII

DISCIPLINE

Section 1. If any Brother shall disclose the rejection of a candidate to any person, except to the candidate himself or to a Master Mason, he shall be deemed guilty of unmasonic conduct. Whenever a rejection occurs it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to cause to be read Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations Section # 4207.

ARTICLE IX

MISCELLANEOUS

Section 1. All members of the Lodge, in good standing, shall also be voting members of the Columbia No. 25 Building Association, Inc. whose purpose is to receive, purchase, or dispose of, erect, rent, lease, mortgage, maintain and otherwise hold real estate and personal property for the use, benefit and occupancy of the members of the Lodge.

Section 2. All accounts and other assets owned by the Lodge, held in trust by the Trustees, or held for the benefit of a Committee, shall be titled in the name of the Lodge. Except as provided for in Grand Lodge Rules and Regulation no funds, accounts or assets of the Lodge may be transferred to a member of the Lodge.

Section 3. The Lodge may communicate its notices, minutes and other correspondence to all members of the lodge, by electronic means. If a brother cannot receive communications in this manner, a written copy will be mailed.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

Section 1. These By-Laws may be amended or repealed at any stated communication of the Lodge by a two-thirds vote of the members present, 30-day written notice of such proposed amendments or repeal having been given and entered upon the minutes of a preceding stated communication.

Section 2. The Secretary shall keep in the Lodge at all times a copy of these By-Laws and attach thereto all changes or amendments with the necessary information pertaining thereto.

Section 3. All By-Laws having been heretofore made by this Lodge are hereby repealed.

Section 4. Such By-Laws shall not take effect until approved as per Section #3003 of the Grand Lodge Rules and Regulations.

Approved by Columbia Lodge, No. 25

Date May 3, 2017

Attest _____,
Lodge Master or Secretary

Date May 3, 2017

Certified by Grand Lodge Committee on Legal Matters,

By _____,

Date _____

Chairman

Approved by Grand Lodge,

By _____,
Grand Master (or his designee)

Date _____