

EZEKIEL BATES LODGE  
BY-LAWS  
Last Amended 1/21/14

ARTICLE I  
Meetings

Section 1. The Regular Communication of Ezekiel Bates Lodge shall be held on the third Wednesday evening of each month, at such hour as the Master shall direct. The Lodge, however, may adjourn during the summer months.

Section 2. The Regular Meeting in September shall be the Annual Communication of this Lodge. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 3. A written or printed notice of each meeting shall be mailed by the Secretary to the Last known address of each member of the Lodge. It is the member's responsibility to notify the Secretary of any change of mailing address. (Amended 6/9/04)

ARTICLE II  
Officers

Section 1. At the Regular Communication in June, there shall be elected by a majority of the members present and voting, a Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary, one Trustee for the term for the term of three years, so that the term of one Trustee shall expire each year, and a Board of Directors consisting of five members of this Lodge. Two for a term of one year, two for a term of two years and one for a term of three years. In addition to the elected officers, the Master may appoint the following; Lodge Representative to the Masonic Board of Relief (Masonic Home), Proxy to the Grand Lodge, Trowel Representative, DeMolay Committee Chairman, Masonic Awareness Chairman, Lodge Historian, Chaplain, Marshal, Senior Deacon, Junior Deacon, Senior Steward, Junior Steward, Organist, Tyler and Ritual Advisor. (Amended 6/9/99; 6/9/04)

Section 3. The Officers elected and appointed shall be installed as soon after the Annual Communication as convenient. (Amended 6/9/04)

ARTICLE III  
Duties of the Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep a fair and just account of all moneys received and paid by him on account of the Lodge, and exhibit the stock of the Lodge on the table at each Quarterly Communication, if required, and to prepare a written statement of his accounts with the Lodge to be presented at the Annual Communication or on due notice from the Master. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the names of the officers and keep a record of the number of members present at every communication of the Lodge, to open an account with each member of the Lodge, charging him with his dues

and crediting him with his payments; to prepare a written statement of his accounts with the Lodge to be presented at the Annual Communication, or on due notice from the Worshipful Master; also to report annually the names of delinquents of the Lodge, and to furnish the Chairman of every committee with a notice of his appointment, together with the nature of the business to be referred.

Section 3. The Board of Trustees shall hold in trust for the Lodge such stocks, securities, investments and properties belonging thereto as may be placed in their hands; make investments, transfer or exchange the same or any part thereof, they shall present to the Lodge at the Annual Communication a written report of all such properties in their possession. In all cases they will do with them as the Lodge may from time to time direct whenever required by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Lodge present, providing that notice of any proposed change shall have been borne on the notice of the meeting at which such vote is taken. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 4. The Board of Directors, acting under the Board of Trustees shall have general supervision of the Attleboro Masonic Temple and all property within and without pertaining to said Temple. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors, working in conjunction with the Board of Trustees, to devise a plan to provide for the payment of any indebtedness on the Attleboro Masonic Temple property. They shall render a written account of their actions at the Annual Communication of the Lodge. (Amended 6/9/04)

#### ARTICLE IV Petitions

Section 1. All applications for initiation into the Masonic order through this Lodge must be delivered to the Secretary accompanied the current fee as established by the Finance Committee. When the Lodge receives the petition it shall at once be referred to a committee of three or more members for investigation into the character and standing of the applicant and the committee shall report at the next Regular Communication. Should the candidate be rejected, the deposit fee shall be returned immediately. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 2. If an applicant for degrees of Masonry or for membership in this Lodge shall be rejected, no member of this Lodge or visiting Brother shall disclose who opposed his election to any person, nor the fact of his rejection to any person except the applicant himself or to a Master Mason. Should any brother offend in this particular, he shall be deemed guilty of un-Masonic conduct, and may be dealt with accordingly. Whenever a rejection occurs, it shall be the duty of the Worshipful Master to cause this section to be read, that no brother may offend through ignorance. (Amended 6/9/04)

#### ARTICLE V Candidates

Section 1. A candidate elected must present himself for initiation within one year from date of election; failing to comply with this by-law, his fee shall be forfeited to the Lodge, unless for satisfactory reasons the Lodge by unanimous vote extends the time.

Section 2. No candidate who has taken the First Degree shall be advanced to the Second Degree unless he can pass an examination on the First Degree that would enable him to gain admission into an Entered Apprentice Lodge; neither shall he be advanced to the Third Degree unless he shall have passed a similar examination on the Second Degree, neither shall he be allowed to sign the By-Laws until he shall have passed a similar examination on the Third Degree.

## ARTICLE VI Membership

Section 1. All persons raised in this Lodge shall be admitted to membership upon signing the By-Laws within a year.

Section 2. Every Brother applying for affiliation with this Lodge, must make application by written petition to be acted upon in all respects the same as a petition for initiation. There shall be no fee connected with an application for affiliation, except as may be required by Section 611 of the Grand Constitutions. If elected he must sign the By-Laws within six months. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 3. Every member who shall have neglected to pay his dues and or any assessments for eight months after the same shall have become due, shall be specially notified in writing, of his delinquency, and if he shall for the space of sixty days thereafter refuse or neglect to pay same, and shall render no satisfactory excuse, he shall be dealt with as the Lodge shall determine, he having been notified in writing via Register mail, return receipt requested of the time such proposed action is to be taken. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 4. Any worthy brother who is a member of this Lodge, and who has complied with the requirements of the By-Laws may become a Life member by paying to the Secretary an amount based on the following scale: (Amended 6/9/04)

18 to 29 years of age would require a payment of thirty (30) times the annual dues.  
30 to 49 years of age would require a payment of twenty (20) times the annual dues.  
50 to 69 years of age would require a payment of ten (10) times the annual dues.  
70 to 79 years of age would require a payment of five (5) times the annual dues.

Life members shall not be subject thereafter to the annual Lodge dues as provided in Article VIII, Section 1 of the By-Laws. (Life members of this Lodge are still required to pay Grand Lodge dues unless they also have a Grand Lodge Life Membership.) (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 5. Honorary members may be admitted into this Lodge after being proposed one month, such proposition having taken the same course as a proposition for ordinary membership.

Section 6. Any worthy Brother who has been a member and has reached the age or 80 years or more, provided he has been a member of this Lodge for at least thirty-five years, shall thereafter become a Life member and shall be exempt from payment of Lodge dues, provided he is in good standing and his dues and assessments have been paid or remitted to date. (Life members of this Lodge are still required to pay Grand Lodge dues unless they also have a Grand Lodge Life Membership.) (Amended 6/9/04)

## ARTICLE VII Committee

Section 1. There shall be four standing committees of the Lodge. A Committee of Charity; A Committee of Finance; an Auditing Committee. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 2. The Worshipful Master and Wardens shall ex-officio be the Committee of Charity, of which the Worshipful Master shall be the Chairman, and any two of whom shall constitute a quorum. The Committee of Charity shall have power through its Chairman to expend in any one fiscal year, not exceeding fifteen hundred (\$1500.00) of the Charity fund for the relief of worthy brothers, their widows and orphans. Applications for relief must be made through the Master. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 3. The Master and Wardens shall constitute the Committee of Finance, who shall examine and decide upon the payment of all demands against the Lodge. They shall cause an audit to be made of the books and accounts of the Treasurer, Secretary, Board of Trustees and Board of Directors, and report in writing at the annual meeting, and transact generally the financial affairs of the Lodge except as otherwise provided.

Section 4. The Auditing Committee; It shall be the duty of the Auditing Committee to examine, or cause to be examined, the books, vouchers, etc., of the Treasurer, Secretary, Trustees, Directors and other officers and report in writing at the Annual Communication. If required, a professional Auditor may be commissioned by the Auditing Committee, the expense thereof to be borne by the Lodge. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 5. All members appointed on Committees shall be regarded as bound in sacred honor to give prompt and diligent attention to the business committed to them and to return their report in writing, fearlessly and without favor. (Amended 6/9/04)

## ARTICLE VIII Dues and Fees

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Lodge shall end on August 31st in each year, and every member of this Lodge, except Life Members, shall pay into the General Fund a sum equal to twice (2 times) the annual Grand Lodge dues per member for the support of the Lodge, in advance on September 1st of each year. (Amended 5/29/84; 6/9/1999, 6/8/05)

Section 2. Should the funds of the Lodge at any time be so low as to be inadequate to pay its expenses or to meet any extraordinary contributions already voted, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer to make report of the same to the Lodge, and an

assessment may be made upon all the members to defray the same, provided that previous notice of such intended assessments and of the amount thereof shall be given on the summons calling said meeting, and that the members present shall by a two-thirds vote assent thereto.

Section 3. The fees shall be as follows, vis: For the three degrees, including diplomas, when conferred in this Lodge, three hundred dollars (\$300), paid thus, to wit: with application, seventy-five dollars (\$75), non-refundable, except due to a negative vote by the lodge, removal of application prior to vote, or per discretion of the lodge; remaining two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225) to be paid in three (3) seventy-five dollar (\$75) installments prior to each degree. No member may sign the by-laws of the lodge without the complete payment of the fees. (Amended 1/21/14)

## ARTICLE IX Funds

Section 1. No part of the principal of funds shall be expended or disposed of except for the purpose of reinvestment, unless disposition thereof be made in accordance with the terms of a two-thirds vote of the members present at a Regular Communication of this Lodge, a motion therefore having been made in writing at the Regular Communication then next preceding, and a notification of the terms of said motion having been duly mailed by the Secretary to the last known address of every member of this Lodge. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 2. All moneys received as commutation for Life membership shall be placed in the hands of the Trustees and interest only to be used for the ordinary expenses of the Lodge, and shall be known as the permanent fund. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 3. The Fund known as "Ezekiel Bates Lodge Charity Fund" shall be invested by the Trustees, who shall draw and pay to the Charity committee on the written call of the Worshipful Master for charitable purposes as provided in Sec. 2, Article VII, and payable in any one fiscal year without vote of the Lodge. Further payments may be made from said fund, only if a motion is presented in writing, carried on the notice of the next Communication, and so voted by the Lodge. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 4. The fund being established from money given by members as memorials to themselves or others will be called the 100th Anniversary Memorial Maintenance Fund. This will be part of the Permanent Funds, under the direction of the Ezekiel Bates Lodge Trustees. Only the income from this fund is to be used for building needs and maintenance. (New Amendment 5/27/71; 6/9/04)

Section 5. The fund being established from money bequeathed to the Lodge by his estate will be called "Worshipful Albert M. Dunham Memorial Fund". This will be part of the permanent funds, under the direction of the Ezekiel Bates Lodge Trustees. Only the interest income from this fund is to be used for building needs and maintenance. Further payments may be made from this fund only if motion is presented in writing, carried on notice of the next Regular Communication, and so voted by the Lodge. (Amended 2/27/90; 6/9/04)

Section 7. The fund established as the Ezekiel Bates Society shall be used for extraordinary expenses (heating or otherwise) of the lodge at the discretion of the Finance Committee. An appeal may be made at the discretion of the Master. (Amended 2/27/90; 6/9/04)

ARTICLE X  
Presentation of By-Laws

The By-Laws shall be read to every member of the Lodge as soon as he is admitted or a copy thereof be presented to him, instead, at the time he signs them.

ARTICLE XI

The seal of Ezekiel Bates Lodge is a circle in the center of which is a square and compasses with the Letter G. Between the square and Compasses and outer circle is a scalloped circle and between these two circles in the upper part, the words, "Ezekiel Bates Lodge"; in the lower, Attleboro, Mass. On the inside of the scalloped circle in the upper part, the word, "Chartered" in the lower part, "April 9, 5870". (Amended 6/9/04)

ARTICLE XII  
Amendments

Section 1. Notice of proposed changes of these By-laws must be printed in the communication prior to distribution and discussion. (Amended 6/9/04)

Section 2. No part of these By-Laws shall be repealed, annulled, or amended, unless all changes be proposed in writing, and presented to the Lodge at least one month previous to action thereon; when if two-thirds of the members present vote in favor of the substitute, the change or amendment shall be made or adopted. (Amended 6/9/04)