

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 20, 2024. called to order 7:03 PM: Remote meeting.

Members present: Bob Licht, Tom Reardon, Amanda Derosier Millette, Brian Smith, Millie Milton

Guest: Julianne Hirsh, Select Board

Absent: Brian Swanson, Leslie Harrison, Alternates: Lorna Helms, Bruce Chute.

Bob read script including: "Pursuant to chapter 2 of the acts of 2023, an act relative to extending certain COVID 19 measures, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation..."

Prior meeting minutes: February 21, 2024 meeting minutes approved as presented by roll call by all. (Motion by Brian Smith, seconded by Amanda, abstained Tom). Bob will send PDF to Town clerk's office.

Old Business:

HDC Annual Report was edited down to fit to one page in the Town Annual Report. Figures were eliminated but one might be on the cover.

On March 11, the Select Board approved the acceptance of a new street, Harrington Way. Bob reminded the Board of the Street Naming Bylaw that requires notification to, and approval by the Historical Commission and should be of historical significance. Harrington was on the approved list of new street names from a 1983 Historical Commission memo.

CPA project status review:

Library historical marker was completed by Crown Trophy and looks great. Bob delivered it to the DPW. DPW will coordinate with the Library for the installation. This closes the project for HDC and the final invoice was sent to CPC.

Bob got an update from Lisa Mausolf (nomination consultant) regarding application for National Register status for Howard Street Cemetery. She expects to have the response to MHC on their comments within 2 months. After that MHC will present the nomination to the State Review Board for final approval. Once

the Cemetery is listed the Town will be eligible for funding support for grave stone restoration projects.

No further update on the warped cemetery sign behind First Parish Church.

Small projects: Tom Reardon reported his and Norm Corbin's examination DB Wesson archives in Springfield. Found suppliers names, engineers, confirmed the interior designer from 1875-1883. Tom and Norm will give a presentation on these archives at a future Historical Society meeting.

Committee representative updates:

CPC: Millie reported on the status of the plans for the Town to purchase 432 Whitney

MPIC: Millie reported that there will be a meeting tomorrow with the Select Board. Hope that town meeting will support moving ahead with downtown focused improvements.

Northborough Revolution 250 (Rev250): Bob reported on the February 28 meeting. Officers were selected. The goals for 2024 are related to raise awareness of the Rev250 Committee, such as Community Advocate articles, Cable Access TV, and participation in Memorial Day parade and AppleFest. Commemorative activity for significant Revolutionary historical events will be planned for 2025-26.

Fire Station Building Committee: Tom is a member and reported on the status. Finalized selection of building materials, and plan to move the 9/11 memorial from Pleasant & Church to the fire station site. Bob raised the issue that the existing stone walls in back of property may need to be demolished or moved. DPW might be able to preserve these walls.

New Business

Legacy Tree Program - Community Preservation Coalition visited White Cliffs and noticed Beech tree that could be a Legacy Tree candidate. Norm Corbin and Tom found an 1885 letter from Westboro Nursery to DB Wesson. Kathleen Devereaux (Garden Club), Bob, and Norm toured the White Cliffs grounds and saw the likely Purple Beech mentioned in the 1885 letter. Select Board will have to approve the

nomination. Kathleen got confirmation from the Program that there would be no State requirement to maintain or preserve a Legacy Tree. Next step is to estimate the size of the tree for the nomination.

We can sponsor signs for historic homes as appropriate. Bob got in touch with Westborough Historical Comm. to get information about their sign program. In letters of appreciation to homeowners, we could suggest house signs.

Historic home at 302 Church St may be up for sale. Owners have been approached about preservation options.

Church St home request for renovation to fix up house. Outside of historic district so there were no restrictions.

Norm, Lorna, and Bob met at Trinity church regarding steeple and bell work, and handicap access additions. Looking for funding, possibly from CPC. To get MHC matching funds, Church would have to be in an Historic District or on the National Register. We will examine the possibility of establishing a new Historic District. It may also be advantageous to include other contiguous property in the new District, such as 39/43 Main (Gale home and store) and the Library, old National Bank building and other property across from the Trinity Church.

Demo request for 99 Crawford St. not 100 years old so not our purview

Member should review Preservation Plan chapter 7 for new project ideas.

Garden Club 100th anniversary 2025. Julianne Hirsh suggests pulling them into the Revolution 250

Motion to adjourn made by Brian Smith. Seconded by Tom Reardon.

Next meeting likely April 17, probably by Zoom.

Next months meeting will have nomination and election of 2024-25 officers.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Smith, seconded by Tom and approved unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Bob and Amanda