

## **Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday April 12, 2023 called to order 7:01 PM: In Person meeting.

Members present: Norm Corbin-Chair, Brian Smith, Millie Milton, Brian Swanson, Bob Licht, Amanda Derosier Millette; Alternates: Tom Reardon;

Absent: Leslie Harrison - Alt's: Bruce Chute, Lorna Helms

### **Prior meeting minutes:**

March 8, 2023 meeting minutes: Approved unanimously after Norm will replace the word "widow" with "window". (Motion by Millie, seconded by Amanda)

### **Old Business:**

#### **CPA project status review:**

- Howard Street Cemetery National register application draft has been submitted, could take 9 months or more.
- Kizer section cemetery signs to be installed soon.
- Brigham Street Burial ground upgrade is in process.
- Library historical marker will be voted on at town meeting.

#### **Small Projects:**

- Tom has contacted Northborough in UK established 656 AD. He showed us photos from his visit to this quaint, agricultural, thatched roofed parish.
- Amanda is still planning on doing a Proctor School history project this school year.
- A letter was sent to the 302 Church Street owners asking if they'd like preservation information.
- Letters of welcome were sent to 12 new antique home owners.

#### **Demolition status:**

- House and Barn at Bartlett and Lyman are down, making way for new project.
- Chauncy Hall and others there are demo'd. New DCAM facility being built. We expect them to contact us re: Historical marker for the area.
- Maytek / 87 Hudson Street partially down. New steel arrived.

### **New Business:**

- Town Meeting April 24 @ 6PM. Town vote May 9.
- Input for State Historic Preservation Plan:

We're glad to see there will be "funding and technical resources available" to carry out preservation activities. Including MPPF funding, possible National Register funding, Inventory funding (could we extend to more newer old buildings?) etc. Will they assist with preservation restrictions and tax credits?

Comments on specific sections of the plan:

**1e.** Tom expressed that more skilled preservation tradespersons are needed as we are losing them as modern construction techniques are not developing them.

**1f.** The plan mentions advanced degree internships – we'd like to know how that could work.

**2a.** Archaeological surveys are of interest to us.

**2f.** mentions cultural associations which we should be aware of re: diversity and inclusion.

**3.** Brings up affordable housing issue for which Tom suggests we contact the state for support of the current White Cliffs proposal.

**5.** Noted State is good at this and we should take advantage of it more.

Norm will reply to this request for comment with our key points of discussion.

**Committee representative updates:**

- MPIC – Millie reported that the meeting seeking business input on what we want to see in town went fairly well. The next community meeting is May 18 @ 6:30 at the library. Traffic studies are being done and the project is moving well.
- White Cliffs - Norm is trying to keep citizens properly informed to generate support for continuing the vetting needed to keep the Metro West affordable housing proposal for White Cliffs in play. On May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 a "meet the developer" information session is being planned in the library. Norm will have a White Cliffs information table. Selectmen will discuss this on May 8 but there will be no vote until the new Select Board members are sworn in. Northborough Affordable Housing has expressed support for the Metrowest proposal.

Next meeting: tentatively May 17 probably via zoom.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Swanson seconded by Brian Smith, approved unanimously at approximately 8:27 PM. Minutes prepared by Brian Swanson