

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday April 17, 2024. called to order 7:03 PM: Remote meeting.

Members present: Bob Licht, Leslie Harrison, Amanda Derosier Millette, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson,

Absent: Tom Reardon, Millie Milton. Absent 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: March 20, 2024 meeting minutes approved as presented by roll call by all who were present at that meeting. (Motion by Brian Smith, seconded by Leslie). Bob will send PDF to Town clerk's office.

Election of officers for year beginning July 1, 2024.

Bob was nominated to continue as Chair: motion by Leslie, seconded by Brian Smith and approved unanimously by roll call.

Leslie was nominated to continue as Vice Chair: motion by Amanda, seconded by Brian Swanson and approved unanimously by roll call.

Brian Swanson was nominated to continue as Secretary: motion by Leslie, seconded by Brian Smith and approved unanimously by roll call.

Old Business:CPA project status review:

Library historical marker was delivered to DPW but has yet to be installed. Bob to follow up.

Howard Street Cemetery National Register nomination: nothing new to report but hope to hear more for next meeting.

Status of warped Howard Street Cemetery sign: Andy expected to replace it within a month.

### Committee representative updates:

CPC – Leslie: nominated to continue as this representative by Brian Smith, seconded by Amanda and voted unanimously by roll call. She has only to report that we should remember that Town Meeting starts April 22.

MPIC – Millie: As she is absent, her continuation in this roll will be tabled until next meeting. Leslie reports that there is a consultant proposal to utilize White Cliffs and additional new offices on that site for a new Town Hall.

Revolution 250 (ad-hoc) – Bob: (and Brian Smith) hope to recruit more members. Commemorative activities could include, for example, the Knox Artillery Train Passing through town, the Northborough tea party and if it can be verified, The 1825 Lafayette passing through town. Activity could include press releases, local cable programs, banners (for which we may need some funds) education and a presence in parade and Applefest.

There are other War Memorials around town but none for the Revolutionary war and our 124 soldiers. We may want to approach The Legion, CPC or other sources to establish one (which could be co-located with the minuteman statue by Town Hall).

Fire Station Building Committee – Tom : Absent

### New Business

Legacy tree program: We have documentation that 3 purple beech trees were sold by Westborough Nursery to the Wesson property in 1885 for \$4.50. This may assist in nomination of the beech tree at White Cliffs as a Legacy tree.

Review of Town meeting articles that may be relevant to us:

#40 – 432 Whitney Street – not historic.

#43 – Restoration of First Parish Steeple: in historic district but not effecting exterior.

#44 – CPA Aqueduct sign replacement: we sponsored it.

#45 – White Cliffs debt service – necessary.

#49-50 – MBTA community zoning change: We would primarily be concerned if it threatened historic properties.

#58 – design review bylaw changes: not our issue.

#61 – Historic sign bylaw change: allows us to do what we've been doing.

#62 – "Harrington" is on the acceptable street name list.

#63 – Citizens petition to eliminate design review committee: Unsure.

#64 – Fire station status: will monitor progress

Ongoing: Continue reviewing chapter 7 of our Historic Preservation plan to come up with a few more proposals we can put into action.

Next meeting likely May 15, probably by Zoom.

Motion to Adjourn made by Leslie, seconded by Brian Swanson and approved unanimously at approximately 7:52 PM. Minutes prepared by Brian Swanson.