

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 14, 2023 called to order 7:01 PM: In Person meeting.

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

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

Prior meeting minutes: April 12, 2023 meeting minutes: Approved unanimously .
(Motion by Bob, seconded by Brian Smith)

Old Business:

CPA project status review:

Kizer section cemetery signs complete.

Brigham street Burial ground upgrade is in process. The area has been cleared of trees. A small gravel area and stone posts with chain will be added by street. We may be able to add something like white stones, granite curbing or more posts with signage to define the occupied portion as well as flowering trees in other areas. To discuss with Scott Charpentier.

Library historical marker funding was approved and a draft was presented by Norm. It was suggested that a photo of Cyrus Gale Sr. be added. Library trustee's call on location.

Small Projects:

Tom now has a contact person in Northborough, UK.

Demolition status:

Owner of burned house at 162 Whitney Street (Marshall) was told that if fire inspector or building inspector deemed it a danger, the approval of a demolition request through us would not be necessary.

Chauncy Hall and others there are demo'd. Yesterday Norm contacted DCAM re: the promised historical markers for the area, Bob offered to follow up.

Norm recently sent a comprehensive email report out regarding demolition status in general, noting that demolitions are often the result of allowing a property to fall into disrepair beyond salvation. The report suggests that 3 areas of town are ripe for more demolitions and without bylaws helping to define architecture, the

character of these neighborhoods may be lost.

For info: The dam for Northborough reservoir is scheduled for removal.

New Business:

Committee representative updates:

MPIC – Next meeting with the community is June 20 @ 6:30. Bob reported that the previous meeting was well attended and productive.

White Cliffs - Select Board voted unanimously not to forward the proposal that was on the table and disbanded the White Cliffs Committee and propose to take over the project themselves.

Other:

Applefest Street Fair is September 9. Norm will not be doing our booth this year. If others are interested, it is a good way to spread the word of what we are about and should be done every few years at least.

Tomorrow, Norm and Bob are meeting with Shrewsbury Historical Commission to give them some suggestions regarding their Historic Preservation Plan.

NHDC Member Status: Norm informed us that he will not be renewing or continuing as a member (Bob and Amanda will). Norm will send out a standard operating procedure for the Chair which he has. We will need to select a chair, vice-chair and secretary at our next meeting. Norm would like to continue to be involved as a citizen on a few projects he has been working on:

- National Register listing for Howard Street Cemetery
- Library sign/marker
- Brigham Street Cemetery upgrade
- Historic markers for Chauncy pond area (with Bob)

Norm handed over keys to Bob and showed us two filing cabinets in kitchen.

Our Next meeting tentatively July 19. Diane Wackel is our location contact.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Smith, seconded by Amanda and approved unanimously at approximately 8:00 PM. Minutes prepared by Brian Swanson