

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday July 19, 2023 called to order 7:01 PM: Zoom remote meeting.

Members present: Bob Licht-temporary chair, Leslie Harrison-Vice Chair, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson, Millie Milton, Amanda Derosier Millette;

Absent: Alternates: Tom Reardon, Bruce Chute, Lorna Helms

Others on zoom some of the time: Scott Charpentier, Norm Corbin.

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..."

Scott Charpentier reported status of Brigham Street Burial Ground Upgrade. The area has been cleared of dead or dying trees and stumps ground. Power raking, soil amendment are to be done. A small gravel area and stone posts with chain will be added by street. We may have funds to add something like granite stones marking corners of area where ground penetrating radar showed possible remains and signage to define the occupied portion as well as planting trees in other areas. Bob and Leslie and Norm Corbin to discuss with Scott Charpentier on site July 21 and to mark off areas not to be power raked which would disturb "wolf stones".

Prior meeting minutes: June 14, 2023 meeting minutes: Approved as written unanimously by roll call. (Motion by Millie, seconded by Amanda) Brian Swanson will send PDF to Town clerk's office.

Selection of NHDC officers:

No one initially stepped up for chair. It was noted that Tom Reardon who wasn't there would be the next alternate who should be appointed a voting member to fill the vacancy and he might also make a good chairman. Norm Corbin will raise the issue with him. Leslie Harrison and Brian Swanson agreed they would be willing to continue as vice chair and secretary respectively. Leslie was nominated by Millie, Seconded by Brian Swanson and voted in unanimously by roll call. Brian Swanson was nominated by Millie, seconded by Leslie and voted in unanimously by roll call. Bob volunteered to continue as temporary or acting chair. A motion was made to that effect by Leslie, seconded by Millie and unanimously approved by roll call.

Old Business:

CPA project status review:

Kizer section cemetery signs complete and should come off list.

Brigham street Burial ground upgrade is in process as discussed above.

Library historical marker - a photo of Cyrus Gale Sr. is to be added. Ellen Racine will provide - may take a little while with summer hours.

Small Projects:

Amanda showed us a completed brochure regarding Fannie Proctor and the school which she provided for students in class leaving the school this year and to other outlets such as library and Historical Society.

Demolition status:

Burned house at 162 Whitney Street (Marshall) was demolished.

Chauncy Hall area historical markers: Greg Z. of DCAM reports they are using Heritage Consultants to provide text for signs related to Hospital and Native American trails and their research includes meeting with Nipmuc Nation. These are two large signs to be located near the model airplane area. Bob noted a need for a sign directing interested parties to these signs.

Committee representative updates:

MPIC – third community meeting was completed with a lot of work identified to do. Our committee wanted it noted that there are around 60 historical houses in our downtown listed by the Mass Historical Commission. We should try to incorporate this character in new building or modifications to buildings as well as preserving those old buildings.

We discussed any changes in rolls of our committee representatives but no new nominees came up so Millie was nominated to continue as MPIC rep. by Leslie, Amanda seconded and approved unanimously by roll call. Leslie was nominated to continue as CPC rep. by Millie, Brian Swanson seconded and approved unanimously by roll call.

Other:

Applefest Street Fair is September 9. Amanda will contact Mike Duchesneau about the possibility of sharing a booth with Historical Society.

Norm Corbin reported that he has moved NHDC files which he had at home to our files in Town Hall. He also provided a memory stick with all the digital files.

Reminder: we are each to review Open Meeting Law and Conflict of Interest Law.

Norm Corbin and Bob met with Shrewsbury Historical Commission to give them some suggestions regarding their Historic Preservation Plan.

Mail: noted that we have \$500 in our budget.

Our Next meeting tentatively August 16 via zoom.

Motion to Adjourn made by Amanda, seconded by Leslie and approved unanimously at approximately 8:10 PM. Minutes prepared by Brian Swanson