

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2023 called to order 7:05 PM: Zoom remote meeting.

Members present: Bob Licht-Chair, Leslie Harrison-Vice Chair, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson, Millie Milton, Amanda Derosier Millette, Tom Reardon.

Absent: Alternates: Bruce Chute, Lorna Helms

Others on zoom some of the time: Norm Corbin, Julianne Hirsh.

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: August 16, 2023 meeting minutes: Noted that Tom Reardon was there and should have been listed as present. Unanimously approved as amended by roll call. (Motion by Leslie, seconded by Millie). Brian Swanson will revise and send PDF to Town clerk's office.

Old Business:

CPA project status review:

Brigham Street Burial Ground Upgrade: Per Scott Charpentier, tree removal complete, Area to be hand worked is defined. The area is to be hydroseeded and stone posts to be installed to be completed this year.

Library historical marker: - Our comments and additions were given to library board before their meeting on the 9th. At that meeting the library board voted to approve the latest changes. Now in their hands. Hoping it will still be in budget with additions.

National Register Listing of Howard St. Cemetery: Bob checked with Ben Haley (MHC) who said it was submitted in June, is under review and should get comments to consultant next month.

Other:

Our comments were accepted for the large historical information signs to be placed on the old state hospital site near Lyman Street. DCAMM is planning to put them a ways off of Lyman Street where it will be difficult to see to most

passing traffic. Bob and Norm had proposed that DCAMM put a small sign on Lyman Street directing people to the historic markers. If DCAMM elects not to do this, Bob proposed the small sign as a future NDHC project.

Small Projects: nothing new to report.

New Business:

Bob discussed the Historic Preservation Restriction of 2016 between the First Unitarian Church and the Town. The Building Department is aware that any future interior renovations will require approval by the NHDC.

Review Chapter 7 of Historic Preservation Plan:

Publishing historical articles: Norm Corbin has been doing some. contact Laura Hayes, Bob may consider doing one relative to former state hospital signs discussed above.

Work with Historical Society: possibly with updating the NHS Walking Tour of Downtown Northborough brochure, which could use an update. Bob to contact Ellen Racine.

What next in historical markers? Consider incentivising homeowners to put year built signs on antique homes.

Julianne Hirsh asked about significant buildings less than 100 years old like mid century modern. Should we inventory all more than 50 years old?

Letters of appreciation for antique homes being upgraded and maintained: Brian Swanson has done some and will continue if given candidates.

School Projects: One Amanda did for Proctor was great, we could do more.

Cable access: leadership in transition to Dana. Amanda has a little experience in A/V.

Open Space: Trails Bob will contact trails - Bob Mihalek about this. Forest Lyford has done some work on historical aspects of our hiking trails. Also keep up with proposal to get hiking access over historical Aqueduct.

Our brochure needs updating: Do we have any original copy perhaps in our files?

How can we work with Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging themes?

Committee representative updates:

MPIC – Downtown revitalization awaiting draft. Will be letting downtown businesses know CPA funding may be available for appropriate sign or facade improvements.

CPC - Had first meeting of this round, applications may begin in November.

Other:

Applefest Street Fair was September 9. We shared space in the Historical Society's booth. Bob, Tom and Brian Swanson were at the booth at various times during the day. Booth sharing seemed to work out well, many brochures were handed out.

Homework for next time: continue review chapter 7 of HPP for next projects.

Our Next meeting: tentatively October 18 via zoom.

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