

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023 called to order 7:02 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

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: September 20, 2023 meeting minutes: Unanimously approved as presented by roll call. (Motion by Millie, seconded by Tom). Brian Swanson will send PDF to Town clerk's office.

Old Business:

CPA project status review:

Brigham Street Burial Ground Upgrade: Looks good with seeding and stone posts with chains completed.

Library historical marker: - Nothing new to report. Bob will follow up.

National Register Listing of Howard St. Cemetery: In process, nothing new to report.

Other:

Regarding the large historical information signs to be placed on the old Westborough State Hospital site: Noting new to report, Bob to follow up.

Small Projects: Tom reports that he and Norm Corbin have spent some time at Springfield museum studying the records of D.B.Wesson (White Cliffs) much from contractors, furniture designers etc.

Committee representative updates:

CPC - applications due November 1 and meetings begin Nov. 2.

MPIC - meeting Oct 19 where new info should be available.

New Business: Bob received an inquiry about a demolition permit for a 1950's era house on Prospect Street and replied that since it is less than 100 years old, not listed on MACRIS and not in an Historic District we don't get involved in the demolition approval process.

Mass Cultural Council has grant money available in the \$500 range which might be helpful for historic house markers. Bob registered us with the Council for possible future consideration.

Bob discussed Revolution250.org which is organizing events around this coming anniversary of the Revolution. Bob is reaching out to Northborough Community Affairs, our Cultural Council, and the Historical Society to see what we could do for example commemorating Captain Woods and our Minutemen or the Col. Knox cannon transit through Northborough. Brian Smith volunteered to help.

New potential CPA projects:

The library sign is already in the works.

Replacement of the stolen Aqueduct historic marker. Bob has a Crown Trophy estimate of \$4298.70 plus a 10% contingency and will complete a CPA funding application based on previous one, to be installed by DPW. Motion by Brian Smith to submit the CPA application, seconded by Amanda and approved unanimously by roll call.

Bob attended MHC cemetery preservation workshop and the MACRIS file workshop.

The facade improvement matching funds program applies to non profits that are not churches or schools so the Historical Society is aware.

A realtor has reached out to us about 453 Main Street (for sale) regarding what restrictions we might apply. The property (old Stirrup Brook Farm Inn) was built in the 1700's and is listed in MACRIS. We viewed some photos and noted that we could at the most delay a demolition request if it came to that, but since it is not in an Historic District or listed on the National Register we would not restrict exterior renovation.

Review Chapter 7 of Historic Preservation Plan continued: Regarding section 2.2 Work we do on Revolution250 would apply to this. Regarding section 2.3,

National Register Listings actively being applied for for Howard Street Cemetery and also Norm Corbin's House. Bob will talk to Ellen Racine about preservation of documents by the Historical Society which may be eligible for CPC funding. Tom commented on the many stone walls throughout the town which carry history in their own way and will talk to trails committee (Bob Mihalek) to get his perspective on stone wall preservation.

Our Next meeting: tentatively November 15 via zoom.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Swanson, seconded by Tom and approved unanimously at approximately 8:05 PM. Minutes prepared by Brian Swanson