

## **Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes**

**October 18, 2021**

**Members present:** Norm Corbin-Chair, Leslie Harrison-Vice Chair, Mike Duchesneau, Brian Smith, Millie Milton, Brian Swanson,

**Alternates:** Bob Licht, Amanda Derosier Millette,

**Future Alternates:** Tom Reardon, Lorna Helms

**Absent:** Bruce Chute

Norm Corbin read governor Bakers emergency public meeting notice.

**Prior meeting minutes:**

August 18, 2021, minutes unanimously approved with Duchesneau misspelling corrected.

September 20, 21 minutes unanimously approved with omitted last name Millette added.

**Old Business:**

CPA Funding requests: Norm Corbin clarified that the application is to be date stamped at the Town Clerks office and after that 16 required copies are to be made and submitted.

- *Brigham Street burial grounds beautification project:* Norm Corbin reviewed the request including dead tree removal, stone post and chain fencing and gravel pull off area for a total estimated cost of ~ \$137,000. DPW director Scott Charpentier will act as contact and project coordinator. Members asked for clarification on use of chippings on site, our ability to review bid documents and why \$15,000 for bid document prep. CPC will be reviewing this with Scott when appropriate. A question was asked if we should wait on this project until after placing the burial ground on the National Register. Waiting would allow us to request MHC grant funding. Since National Register listing could take 3-4 years and considering the current safety issues with the dead trees, it will be best to initiate this project now. Leslie Harrison made a motion that we promote and support this Brigham Street burial ground beautification project. This was seconded by Millie Milton and approved unanimously. Norm Corbin will add a brief email to the CPC indicating our unanimous approval.
- *Howard Street cemetery signs proposed for new (Kizer) section:* To include one sign at each end of the access road similar to those recently done for the older sections of the Howard street cemetery, Cost is for approximately \$5124. We discussed that we may want to attach them to the existing stone monuments marking the ends of the road rather than freestanding. Brian Swanson to check on cost difference for this option. Leslie Harrison made a motion to approve this request, Millie Milton seconded and the vote was unanimous in support.

- *Trails Committee CPC request:* Trails committee is proposing opening the Aqueduct over the Assabet River to foot traffic. The request documents and costs were not yet available but Norm reported that the structure has been inspected and found structurally sound about 5 years ago. Leslie reported that this project will include redirecting power lines underground and will be an expensive project. We would hope to have more details for review at our November meeting.
- *Historical Society CPA request:* Mike Duchesneau reviewed this request for about \$55K to provide exterior window shutters on the Historical Society building to bring the building back to its pre 1938 hurricane design. These are to be visually appropriate to the original, made of red cedar with galvanized steel hardware and be functional to the extent possible given storm windows that were more recently added. Tom Reardon suggested that stainless steel hardware or a tnmec coating be used on the proposed hardware would be more durable. Tom also pointed out that the double wide shutters would require more support and that we now need to design for 125 MPH wind for possible hurricanes in our area. He said a letter from the vendor stating the functional expectations should be required. Leslie made a motion to support and provide a letter of recommendation for this proposal. Seconded by Millie and approved unanimously with Mike recusing himself as he is making the request.

Historic Preservation Plan: Proposed section seven was reviewed previously by Leslie with very few edits. We tonight reviewed timelines for each topic and agreed they were reasonable. In section on special topic months, we agreed to adding black history month and American Indian month. We also agreed the topic of promoting and protecting assets needs to remain or be expanded as a key ongoing function. Millie was concerned that the format of this and master plan are a little different. Norm will review to be sure priorities by category match up. Norm asked and we support his sending this draft to Kathy Joubert and planning committee for review to be sure we are on the right path before bringing it to the master plan implementation committee.

Historic Preservation Conference: Norm and Bob took part in this. Being virtual allowed them to take part in more sessions and Norm gave an example of a review of the old Worcester Courthouse building repurposing project and the details being required by the Mass. Historical Commission to get this done and Bob explained a session that included Stockbridge having a bylaw allowing them an indefinite demolition delay in some cases.

### **New Business:**

New Members: Amanda Derosier Millette is now officially an alternate. Tom Reardon and Lorna Helms have been interviewed, next step is being sworn in.

Next meeting we will add an agenda item of about 15 minutes to get a master plan implementation committee update from Millie to be sure we are appropriately integrated. This should be done every few months.

Our Budget: still has \$350 left. We have had memberships with Route 20 association, Preservation Mass., and Northborough Historical Society. Norm Corbin wants to clarify our ability to pay dues to a non-profit.

Next meeting: will be Monday November 15 via zoom.

Adjournment: motion made by Leslie Harrison seconded by Millie Milton and approved unanimously at approximately 8:30 pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Brian Swanson