

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2022 called to order at 7:03 PM

Members present: Norm Corbin-Chair, Leslie Harrison-Vice Chair, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson; Bob Licht, Alternate: Amanda Derosier Millette, Board of Selectmen Liaison Julianne Hirsh.

Absent: Members: Bruce Chute, Millie Milton, Alternates: Tom Reardon, Lorna Helms.

Norm Corbin read Governor Baker's extended Covid 19 emergency public meeting notice.

CPC Letters of support:

Aqueduct Multiuse Trail: Amy Poretsky reviewed a feasibility study proposal for an ADA compliant multiuse trail. The trail would be along the path of the aqueduct through the town. This request does not include the aqueduct river crossing which is being handled separately. A motion to provide a letter of support was made by Leslie, seconded by Brian Smith and passed unanimously.

First Parish Church Steeple Repair Project: This was represented by Gordon Hart (Brian Swanson recused himself from this discussion as he is a member of the proposing committee). The presentation showed that while exterior repairs were done 5-6 years ago, there is underlying deterioration of the steeple structure and bell cradle that has resulted in discontinuing the use of the bell and concern for further structural deterioration. Norm pointed out that some matching funding from Mass Historical Commission MPPF grants may be available and should be sought to reduce the funds required from the CPC and also commented that the company who quoted the repairs appears to be qualified with references to similar work. Bob made a motion to provide a letter of support, seconded by Leslie and approved by all participating members.

Historical Society Window Restoration Project: This was presented by Mike Duchesneau. Mike noted that this project would not be required to meet current window energy efficiency codes. The request is similar to what was reviewed last meeting for removal, complete repair and reinstallation of window sashes. Window jam repair and decisions about storm windows would be made later. Norm noted that MPPF grants may be available and should be sought to reduce the funds required from the CPC and also commented that the Heartwood Company who quoted the project appears to be well qualified. A motion to provide a letter of support was made by Leslie, seconded by Brian Smith and approved unanimously.

Gale Library Historical Marker: This project is being proposed by the NHDC and the Library Director. It is a small project that continues our efforts for installing historical markers.

Request for Historic Reserves: The plan is to request \$350K per year for the next 3 years to build up the Historic Reserves account for a number of significant projects we see in the pipeline including White Cliffs.

A discussion of CPA priorities resulted in the following ranking:

HIGH - White Cliffs Bond - \$188K

HIGH - First Paris Steeple Repairs - \$200K

MEDIUM - Historical Society Windows - \$71K

LOW - Historical Reserves - \$350K

LOW - Library Marker - \$5K

Prior meeting minutes:

October 11, 2022 meeting minutes: Approved unanimously as written. (Motion by Bob, seconded by Brian Smith).

Old Business

Historic Preservation Plan: Amanda is working with the schools, has contacted 3. Norm suggests that we each look for pieces of the plan that we could move forward with.

Committee Representative Updates

White Cliffs RFP is out. Ten companies participated in the walkthrough of the property. Proposals are due December 8th.

Master Plan Implementation Committee is moving forward with the downtown improvement feasibility project. Norm spent some time on the phone with Mr. Archambault who is associated with the contractor conducting the downtown feasibility study.

Next Meeting Date: Likely Dec 14 in person if room available or remote if not.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Swanson seconded by Brian Smith and approved unanimously at approximately 8:47 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Brian Swanson