

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

December 14, 2022, called to order at 7:01 PM

Members present: Norm Corbin-Chair, Leslie Harrison-Vice Chair, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson, Bob Licht, Millie Milton, Alternates: Tom Reardon

Absent: Alternates: Bruce Chute, Amanda Derosier Millette, Lorna Helms.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Motion to approve by Leslie, seconded by Bob, approved unanimously as presented.

Old Business:

Current NHDC CPA requests for Gale Library Historical Marker as well as Historic Reserves account funding of \$350K per year for the next 3 years were discussed at the December CPC meeting. Next meeting January 5.

Signs for “Howard Street Cemetery Kizer Section” are on order.

Historic Preservation Plan – small projects: Amanda is working with three elementary schools. Norm will contact 4 owners interested in more information on the preservation of older homes. Suggests that we each look for a small project we can work on.

New Business:

Contact info for our committee members passed around for confirmation, to be provided to MHC.

Demolitions at 87 Hudson Street and Stirrup Brook Barn have taken place. Some social media chatter about the demolitions. Some beams saved from the Stirrup Brook Barn, Tom Reardon will look at them for possible reuse. Bob will check on the status of demolitions at 1 Lyman Street.

It was noted that several pre-1970s neighborhoods are ripe for demolition of small homes to make way for newer larger homes which may be out of character to those neighborhoods. Norm is intending to send a letter to Planning Board.

It was discussed that our town is identified as an adjacent transit community. As such, we are encouraged to define 50 acres for dense and affordable housing. The ball fields off Route 20 near the Avalon housing complex are being considered as part of the 50 acres.

The next round of MHC MPPF funding is now open. Norm forwarded info to Historical Society and First Parish Church. Training programs were attended by Norm and Brian Smith in the past.

Letters of appreciation for recent historic home upgrades should be prepared for 45 Summer Street and 66 Green Street. Norm to provide info to Brian Swanson.

Letters of welcome to new historic home owners should be prepared for 67 Main Street and possibly others. Norm to provide info to Brian Swanson.

Norm mentioned that both Cambridge and Springfield have granted CPA Historic Preservation funding for privately owned buildings.

Committee Representative Updates:

White Cliffs Committee - Three proposals were received; one for affordable housing, one for a large apartment complex and one with commercial uses. All include restoration of the mansion. The proposals will be available on line tomorrow.

Master Plan Implementation Committee – They are focused on the evaluating possible “downtown” improvements.

CPC continues with first round project presentations.

Next Meeting Date: Likely January 25 via zoom if support available

Motion to Adjourn made by Leslie seconded by Millie and approved unanimously at approximately 7:50 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Brian Swanson