

Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2022

Called to order 7:12 PM

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

Absent: Alternates Bruce Chute; Lorna Helms

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

Public Hearing

For Proposed Chimney removal at 35 Whitney Street:

For this hearing Norm will recuse himself as he is the applicant and Bob will run the hearing. This hearing is required as the subject house is in the meetinghouse historic district and the modification will be visible from the street. Norm presented the proposal and photos of the house and subject rear chimney. The commissioners commented on the appropriateness of removal of this old unused, failing, and dangerous chimney as well as its probable use of local brick. There was no comment from the public. Millie moved to approve a certificate of appropriateness for the removal, seconded by Brian Smith and approved unanimously ending the Public hearing about 7:25 PM and returning Norm to Chairman

Regular Meeting

Prior meeting minutes: September 7, 2022 meeting minutes: Approved unanimously as written. (Motion by Millie, seconded by Bob).

New Business:

White Cliffs RFP - Brett Pelletier from Kirk and Co. was present to update us on the status of their preparation of an RFP seeking partners for the town to appropriately restore and use the White Cliffs. He says over 50 entities have been contacted for research and the RFP will go out this week with a 60 day response period.

Historical Society CPA Request - Mike Duchesneau presented a proposal for the Historical Society for which he would like our comments and support for a CPA funding request. The request is for \$72,000 for removal, repair and reinstallation of the old window sashes in their building. Norm suggested that there may be less funding available for such projects this year and that it would be good to be prepared with a smaller partial proposal and that other sources of funding including the Mass. Hist. Comm. should be considered. It was noted that the request does not address the complete frames in which the sashes are placed. Tom noted that the project would require a building permit which could trigger energy efficiency requirements. Mike says they will consider these aspects and return to our next meeting.

Old Business:

The Apple-fest booth was staffed by Norm with help from Amanda, Bob and Brian Swanson. It went well and included some interesting visits from residents.

The Historic Preservation Plan has received positive comments from Jennifer Doherty and so is done! Millie will make sure the Master Plan Implementation Committee is aware.

Our current CPA funding request for \$5,000 for historical marker for the library was well received by the library director and will proceed. The prices of these have increased considerably and we may need to think smaller or simpler in the future.

Regarding current year's CPA project for cemetery signs: they will say "Kizer Section" and Lorna is working on loose ends of wording.

A Girl Scout, Lana Ingerslev, proposed a gravestone cleaning project for her Silver Award. She has completed cleaning a number of gravestones in the cemetery and documented a procedure for future work. Impressive photos were shown.

Other:

Norm will be putting in a CPA request for \$350,000 to be put into the historic reserve account. This is to build up the account for anticipated future funding needs.

Next Meeting Date: to be determined due to Covid, remote meeting complications.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Swanson, seconded by Millie, approved unanimously at approximately 8:33 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Brian Swanson