

**Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes****Wednesday January 25, 2023 called to order 7:12 PM**

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

Absent: Bruce Chute,

Norm Corbin read Governor Baker's 2022 Covid 19 emergency public meeting notice.

Prior meeting minutes:

December 14, 2022 meeting minutes: Approved unanimously as written. (Motion by Millie, seconded by Brian Smith).

**Old Business:**

The Historic Preservation Plan or a link to it has been distributed to the Historical Society, Community Facebook pages and email lists. It will also be mentioned in the Community Advocate news with hard copies located at Town Hall, the Library and the Senior Center.

The Historical Society now has an intern, Carter Brannon, who is a Northborough college student with much interest in local history.

Norm is still planning to contact several homeowners who expressed interest in preservation of their property.

The list of small projects from page 92 of NHPP was reviewed so we may start to consider projects to work on.

- For Preservation Month (May), Lorna will contact the Library and Historical Society about a display at the library entrance.
- New ideas for small projects included; updating the downtown walking tour brochure, developing a historic district walking tour, clean some cemetery stones, have the Civil War memorial professionally cleaned, update NHDC pamphlet and propose a Revolutionary war memorial.

A list of 15 addresses is with Brian Swanson for drafting letters of welcome or appreciation.

Lorna reports new Kizer section cemetery signs are all set, to be installed soon.

Brigham Street burial ground improvements have trees marked but no further work yet.

**New Business:**

List of our member contact information was sent to MHC.

Our annual report was submitted by Norm with editorial help from Leslie.

A list of acceptable historical street names required for any new streets in town was compiled in the 80's. Somehow this information is not in the current town code. The town planner will work on getting the town code updated.

129 Maple Street is to be demolished. Building Inspector and Fire Chief determined that it can't be salvaged after a fire so we don't have to consider it.

The January 27th Historical Society Program will be by Norm about Northborough's Historic Districts.

Norm and Bob visited Lisa Orr's historic property on Reservoir Street and her extraordinary ceramics studio.

Norm was contacted by Peg Stone of Berlin's select board re: historical property inventory and he was able to give her some direction.

**Other:**

Per Tom there is a quaint Northborough England and someone suggested contacting them as a "sister community".

Julianne reported a Legacy Tree Project for trees of historical or age or size significance for which we may get further info.

**Committee representative updates:**

MPIC – Millie reminded us of a meeting tomorrow seeking community input on what we want to see in town and a meeting with business owners in the future.

CPC – Leslie reports next Thursday begins deliberations.

White Cliffs - Norm says 2 out of 3 bidders remain, both planning on improvements/restoration to the building and grounds with some provision for use as an event venue and while one is proposing 52 affordable housing units, the other is focusing on cooperative offices, small startup or "incubator" units along with community gatherings. Further discussions will be tomorrow's White Cliffs Committee Meeting.

**Next Meeting Date:** Likely via zoom 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of month for next few.

Motion to Adjourn made by Brian Swanson seconded by Millie, approved unanimously at approximately 8:15 PM.

Meeting minutes prepared by Brian Swanson