

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2019

Present: Norm Corbin, Amy White, Stephanie Stockman, Bruce Chute, Alexandra Molnar, Zenya Molnar, Brian Smith (Alternate), and Michael Duchesneau (Alternate)

Guests: Julianne Hirsch

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

- **Previous Meeting Minutes** - A motion was made by Amy White and seconded by Bruce Chute to accept the meeting minutes of February 20, 2019. It passed unanimously.

Old Business

Antique Demolitions Update

- The brick house on East Main Street will be demolished soon.

Master Plan Steering Committee Update

- No new updates

White Cliffs Committee Update

- On February 22nd there was a meeting with the architects for White Cliffs.
- The architects have begun their survey of the building and are documenting what they are seeing in the building.
- Also, they are researching the history of the building.
- The property is being monitored by the police 3xs/day.
- April 2nd is the next meeting.

Historic Markers

- This is in process.
- The cost will be approximately \$5,600.00

The Grange Letter

- Norm sent the letter.

Continuation of Historic Properties Discussions

- Michael researched options other than a historic district.
 - There is a federally funded community development grant for urban areas greater than 50,000 people.
 - Another option is a state program.
 - These grants are for making improvements to certain areas of the town.
 - An example of this is in Springfield, MA where owners are reimbursed for work done within 10 feet of the sidewalk.
 - Examples of projects: Painting the store front, replacing windows, architectural refurbish, repointing bricks, adding flower baskets
 - The application is online and the amount to be reimbursed is \$5,000-\$15,000. The owner must pay the entire cost up front, and then the state will reimburse 75% this all upfront.
 - Zoning Changes – Could this help preserve historical buildings?

- Ideas to think about
 - Implementing architectural requirements
 - Preserve open space
 - Preserve the historic building, but develop other parts of the property
 - Norm will invite Kathy Joubert to our meeting in June to discuss this further.
 - Iconic Homes Preservation
 - Norm is generating a list 25 homes.

New Owner Letters

- Norm and Zenya will work on sending out the letters.

New Business

Mail

- No mail

Interpretive Signs Requests

- Old Howard St Burial Ground
 - Norm is following-up on acquiring the electronic copies of the map.
- Brigham Street Cemetery
 - Ideas for the interpretive sign
 - List of Names, Small historic paragraph about the cemetery, photo of a gravestone, carriage trail, mounting stone

Meeting House Marker

- Alexandra will write an article for The Community Advocate

Massachusetts Historic Preservation

- Norm attended this meeting
- There was information about writing a master plan.
 - MHP would be excited for us to submit a plan to the state
 - The plan does not need to be extensive – appx. 5 pages long
 - Only 30 towns have submitted a plan

Committee Procedures

- Open positions and those members who are for reappointment will be announced publicly and in a more accessible way.
- New committee members will be interviewed.
- Members up for reappointment will have the option to interview.
- The Chairman will have to write recommendations for the members up for reappointment.
- Question/Concern: Will members up for reappointment be told whether or not there are other candidates interviewing for the spot?

Next Meeting

April 17, 2019

Adjournment

Zenya made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. This was seconded by Amy. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Stockman
Secretary

DRAFT