

## Northborough Historic District Commission Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2021

Members present: Norm Corbin-Chair, Leslie Harrison-Vice Chair, Mike Duchesneau, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson, Bob Licht, Amanda Derosier Millette,

Applicant for Alternate Position: Tom Reardon

Absent: Millie Milton, Bruce Chute,

Meeting called to order 7:00pm

Norm Corbin read governor Bakers emergency public meeting notice.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Howard Street cemetery interpretive sign is complete

Howard Street cemetery National Register consultant has been asked by Norm Corbin to look into information that the cemetery was formed circa 1745 when a large number of children died of throat distemper, hoping to find out who those children where and where they are buried.

Norm Corbin reported that the leakage problem with the Brigham Street cemetery sign has been corrected.

Regarding mitigation for demolition on old state hospital grounds, Norm was informed by the state that they would not be providing brass on stone as we suggested but would provide more informative and detailed signs similar to those which can be seen in the gazebo at Lake Chauncy. Norm will be contacted by the state to work out content of two information signs about Native American history and the farming history of the area.

Regarding CPA funding for proposed Brigham Street cemetery project, DPW director Scott Charpentier has estimates of \$40,000 for dead tree removal. An estimate of \$50,000 to \$62,000 for 240 feet of granite post and chain fencing depending on design was provided. An estimate of \$2,000 was given for a gravel pull of area beside the road. This will be put in as a CPA funding request by Norm and Scott.

Any other CPA requests also need to be finalized by our October meeting including a request for an additional Howard Street cemetery identification sign like the ones we had done 5 or so years ago.

Norm Corbin, Bob Licht and Leslie Harrison met with the Diversity and Inclusion Committee September 2<sup>nd</sup>. The conclusions were that while it is unclear exactly what will result from that meeting, it helped the two committees understand each other's function and the meeting may also help inform how we interact with other town organizations as well as helping us keep

diversity and inclusion issues in mind as we consider, for example, historical topics such as Native Americans or Civil War/abolition.

Regarding the Historic Preservation Plan, Norm Corbin provided an overview regarding some old history of the Historic District Commission. Three attempts were made in the 1970's to create a "Main Street – Local Historic District". The attempts failed by only a few votes because some owners within the district were opposed to it. If such a district were to be proposed in the future, it will be key to address all the concerns of property owners within the district.

Tom Reardon pointed out that design criteria for new structures in historic sections are not specific enough regarding proposed design criteria for duplexes. More clarity is needed than just specifying traditional neighborhood design.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

The Master Plan Implementation Committee to which Millie Milton is our connection, has met. Millie can fill us in at the next meeting.

New members: Amanda Derosier has been sworn in as an alternate. Tom Reardon and Lorna Helms have not been interviewed yet due to challenges with scheduling due to Covid.

Norm reminded the group of the Historic Preservation Conference and how to attend virtually

Next meeting will be Monday October 18 via zoom.

Adjournment motion made by Brian Smith seconded by Leslie Harrison and approved unanimously at approximately 7:45 pm.

Meeting minutes prepared by Brian Swanson