

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for Monthly Meeting
Thursday, January 21, 2021

Meeting held via Video Conference

Present: Mike Duchesneau, Brian Smith, Brian Swanson, Norm Corbin, Bruce Chute, Bob Licht
Guest: Tom Reardon, Matt Pisani

Chairman called the monthly meeting to order at 7:03

- **Public Hearing – Partial demolition request for 56 Hudson St. (MATEC Corp)**
 - MATEC has outgrown the space, can't get industrial vehicles into the area
 - Owner looked at moving the business, but it's not feasible
 - New footprint would be approximately the same
 - Public comment:
 - Dr. Ruediger Volk asked how much the cost would be to build with brick, and whether the town could chip in to help with that.
 - Tom responded that design is already through Design Review Committee and ZBA, did not consider brick due to cost, what is in the plan should be OK visually
 - Millie moved that the demolition delay be waived, Mike seconded, all in favor
 - Public hearing closed at 7:34

- **Prior Meeting Minutes**
 - Mike moved to accept the minutes of December 16, 2020, seconded by Brian Smith, all in favor
- **Old Business**
 - Prior CPA requests
 - Brigham Street Burial Ground - Interpretive Sign
 - Answers received to many questions
 - Changed contrast in coloring, added detail on construction
 - Beth Finch McCarthy updated the list of names
 - Expand on "Status" definition, indent status categories making them easier to read, improve date marking consistency
 - Norm will ask for DPW and Cemetery Commission comments
 - Howard Street Burial Ground – Interpretive Sign
 - Send out for quote within 1 weeks or so
 - National Register for Howard Street Burial Ground & Cemetery
 - Norm emailed and sent additional info, hoping to have something to review by Feb meeting
 - Historic Preservation Plan
 - No report
 - Archeological Sites in Northborough
 - Received package with maps of all archaeological site in Northborough from Mass Historical Comm on December 22

- They highly recommend that the town hire someone to perform site surveys
 - There are 20 ancient sites and 3 historical sites (sites where structures no longer exist). Each site has a report
 - Mike will send the package to Kathy Joubert to maintain
 - Could CPA funding be used for surveys?
 - Many of the reports reference artifacts displayed in the Northborough Historical Society
 - Mike will ask other towns how they addressed such surveys
 - Old Grange Hall, 10 School Street
 - There is a party interested in buying, wants to make it a single-family home
 - Planned Demolitions on old State Hospital grounds
 - Norm contacted Mass Hist Comm, who told him to contact DCAMM
 - Will ask: What will they demolish? Will they want to demolish Chauncy Hall?
 - Norm will also ask for permission to take pictures
 - NHDC representation on other committees
 - White Cliffs Committee
 - The contractor completed the contract. There is a link to Town's website with thorough evaluation
 - Community Preservation Committee
 - Application for Historical Society was approved (\$22K)
 - Payment for White Cliffs bond was approved
 - Master Plan Implementation Committee
 - All members selected
- **New Business**
 - All members must complete annual ethics, open meeting law and conflict of interest training (see Norm's email)
- **Mail** - none
- **Next Meeting:** February 17, 2021
- **Adjournment**
 - Millie moved to adjourn, seconded by Brian Smith, all in favor

CC: Commission Members, Julianne Hirsh, Town Clerk, Diane Wackell

Respectfully submitted
Bruce Chute