

Historic District Committee Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2021

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By Karen Wilber, Town Clerk's Office at 2:57 pm, Aug 26, 2021

In-person meeting

Meeting started at 7:05

Attendees: Norm Corbin, Mike Duchesneau, Millie Milton, Brian Swanson, Robert Licht,

Applicant for alternate position: Tom Reardon

Minutes:

4/21/2021 meeting minutes - will review at next meeting.

5/19/2021 meeting minutes - motion passed unanimously

CPA project updates:

Howard Street Burial Ground Interpretive Sign: final edits completed by Leslie Harrison and Norm Corbin, sign has been ordered.

Brigham Street Burial Ground Interpretive Sign: was installed, water has seeped in between the glass front and the panel, contractor will repair.

Howard Street Cemetery National Register Nomination: the contractor is continuing to collect information

Demolition at Old Westborough State Hospital Grounds:

- We have requested 2 markers for mitigation of the demolitions, a Native American Trail/Site marker and a State Hospital Farming Community Site marker
- Letter sent by Norm Corbin to the Massachusetts Historical Commission requesting information on the Native American archeological artifacts found on the old State Hospital property.

Letters Of Appreciation:

- Letters were sent to: 110 Howard Street, 130 South Street, 334 Church Street and 239 Crawford Street to recognize property owners for the upkeep of their properties.

Historic Preservation Plan

- We reviewed a draft of the section "History of the Northborough Historical Commission" for general comments. A more detailed editing will be conducted at a later date.
- Discussions were held regarding the initial formation of the Historical Commission and the Historic District Commission in the early 1970 and their different responsibilities.
- Chairperson Norm Corbin stated that identifying a Local Historic District section near the town center has been attempted several times in the late 1970's, but has failed. What might be done differently if the effort were to be made again?
- The area on Summer Street and School Street were previously recommended to be on the National Register.
- The old files for the early years of the two commissions (late 1960s to mid 1980s) are all available in the Northborough Historical Society archives.
- There was a discussion if CPC funding could be made available to antique home owners

CPC Funding discussion:

- Automatic Bond payment for White Cliffs
- Near term NHDC applications:
 - **Brigham Street Cemetery Beautification:** There are at least 20 dead trees on the property. Can we get CPC funding for beautification for tree removal, fencing and an improved parking space? Will need to speak with Scott Charpentier, DPW director.
 - **Howard Street Cemetery Signs:** There are signs for the older sections. Should there be signs for the newer Kaiser Rd. section?
 - **Archeological survey:** Mike Duchesneau had estimates of about \$35,000. A detailed scope of work would need to be prepared to obtain at least 3 formal quotes that could be used in the CPA funding request.

Discussion/questions:

It would be interesting to know if there is any Paleolithic history evidence in town.

Will the public have access to the information? How is the information secured once obtained?

Are there any unintended consequences of having an archeological survey done?

What is the current process for a developer to investigate local archeology when planning to build?

Does Northborough have any current by-laws to protect archeological sites? If so, what are they?

- Tom Reardon expressed interest in learning more about pattern of Northborough's development with respect to society, population migration and architectural styles. Is CPA funding available for printing of photos and documents? Chairperson Norm Corbin stated this might be possible. There was discussion to see if there might be other possible funding sources.
- Longer term NHDC applications:
 - **Howard Street Cemetery:** We will need to obtain an inventory of headstones and their condition for the old part of Howard Street Cemetery. This covers about 4 acres of the cemetery. We should wait until the cemetery is on historic register so that additional funding assistance can be applied for.
 - **Revolutionary War Memorial:** We do not have one in town. Possibly consider coordinating with Veterans Agencies.
 - **Aqueduct over the Assabet River:** Re-open aqueduct for pedestrian use, could be a team effort with the Trails Committee and MWRA.
 - **Mary Goodenow Burial Site:** Request funding to have it nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Applefest Booth at the Street Fair 9/18/21:

- Need to staff the booth, Norm & Bob Licht volunteered
- Decide on a theme for the booth
- Cost is \$80. Motion was made by Millie Milton to pay \$80 for the booth, seconded by Mike Duchesneau. Motion unanimously accepted

1 Lyman Street update:

A salvage company came and agreed to demo and salvage wood for recycling.

Norm will ask if NHDC members can get inside photographs of the barn before demolition.

Copies of the Rev. Kent Book on Northborough History was distributed to the members present.

Remote meeting laws: Chairperson Norm Corbin started a discussion on meeting practices going forward.

What are the current town policies for video, hybrid and in –person?

Mike D. commented that more of the public has opportunity to view when meetings are remote.

Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

Next meeting dates:

August 18th

September 15th: may change to earlier if needed due to close timing to Applefest 9/18/2021.

Motion made to adjourn by Mike Duchesneau , seconded by Millie Milton, passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Millie Milton & Norm Corbin