

**Northborough Historic District Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes for May 15, 2019**

**Present:** Norm Corbin, Bruce Chute, Stephanie Stockman, Brian Smith, Leslie Harrison, Alexandra Molnar, and Zenya Molnar.

**Guests:** Millie Milton, Julianne Hirsh

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

**Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Leslie made motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 17, 2019. Alex seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

Master Plan Steering Committee update:

- Last meeting 5/9/2019: Committee worked on finalizing recommendations in the Master Plan.
- Leslie asked if goals are realistic. Alex responded in saying the document discusses broad goals yet realistic since the planning is for 15-20 years. Norm said his suggestion was to simplify the recommendations regarding Historic Preservation.

White Cliffs Committee update:

- Two bids came in for repairing roof. Both exceeded the money available to spend. Architect will investigate a plan B option that fits the budget (\$300,000).
- Kathleen Polanowicz (chair of White Cliffs committee) is moving out of state in June.
- Fifth person is needed on committee.

Letters of Preservation to Antique Home Owners:

- Norm drafted letter and sent via email to NHDC looking for feedback.
- Members contributed edits during meeting.
- 302 Church Street received letter: Mrs. Maney (owner) is interested in historic preservation for her home. Norm and Leslie will meet with her on 5/16 to discuss options.

Historic Preservation Plan:

- Committee will discuss in fall. 5-10 pages would suffice (rather than 100s of pages).
- The Plan will link with the Master Plan.

Howard Street Cemetery old colonial section:

- "Treatment Report for the Grave Marker Conservation and Resetting" at Howard Street Cemetery was published as part of the gravestone restoration project. It records every gravestone in the cemetery. Norm to add to files at Town Hall so it is on record.
- Alex suggested that an article be written on the restoration project.

Cemetery Interpretive Signs:

- Funding was approved at Town Meeting
- Norm had no work to report.

#### Historic Bronze Markers:

- Funding was passed for signs at Town Meeting.
- Cyrus Gale's General Store:
  - o Need to change funding date to 2019.
  - o Title changed to "Cyrus Gale General Store"
  - o Committee made edits to copy.
  - o Will order by July 2, 2019.
- Cold Harbor Brook Bridge:
  - o Committee will rethink copy on sign to make less oriented towards technical description and more focused on it being a gateway to town.
  - o Most likely will change image to photograph of two people in a canoe.

#### Preservation Massachusetts Membership and using remaining budget:

- \$50 annual membership. Norm will find out what the membership terms are and whether it will expire after one calendar year.
- Leslie made a motion to join Preservation Massachusetts for an annual membership. Stephanie Stockman seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- Alex recommended that the Commission could become members of the Northborough Historical Society to raise visibility of the Commission in the Town and to support since the commission uses Historical Society resources. Membership is \$20 per year.
- Alex made a motion to buy a \$20 membership (if possible) to the Historical Society. Stephanie seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- \$159.96 is current balance of NHDC budget which will expire in June.

#### Applefest:

- Discussed focusing theme on Howard Street Cemetery restoration and showing photos and stories.
- \$80 charge to have a booth.
- Norm made a motion to support the Applefest for 2019 with a booth with funding not to exceed \$80. Leslie so moved the motion and Zenya seconded. It passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

##### Open positions on NHDC:

- Openings for alternates.
- Seven voting positions are full. Seven alternate positions are open.
- Norm has a lead at Historical Society who is interested.
- Millie Milton is interested in becoming alternate member.

##### Preservation Program:

- Julianne attended. Chris Skelly presented. Preservation does not always mean houses, rather it can refer to structures, such as stone walls. Julianne inquired whether stone walls near White Cliffs have been preserved; however, Norm clarified that many are on private property. Town of Lincoln has started preserving modern homes; Julianne put forth as a possible suggestion to look at preserving more modern (yet historic) homes/neighborhoods, such as North Gate. We could install a plaque to recognize. Norm said we would need to start by putting them on the inventory of older homes.
- Stephanie recommended that restoring the stone wall that designates the border of the old section of the Howard Street Cemetery could be a worthwhile project.

#### Signage:

- Norm raised the idea of installing a historic Route 20 sign in town. Norm to inquire about price of signs with historic Route 20 guy and will check with DPW to see if installing at each end of town would work. Commission could consider a membership to Historic Route 20 organization.

#### Demo delay inquiry:

- Woman on historic committee in Harvard, MA contacted Norm to consult about demolition delays since many old homes are now being torn down.

#### Bartlett Street:

- Norm inquired about installing a sign to recognize an old Native American trail. The previous owner is looking into the feasibility. Norm would like for the owners to pay for sign.

#### Phone call from Planning Board member:

Norm received a phone call from Anthony Ziton who was concerned about the property for sale on Church Street. Sale is pending. Could send new owners of antiques a letter.

#### Mail:

- MA History Organization conference in Worcester on June 24.

#### 130 South Street:

- House in bad shape. Pictures look nice because they probably aren't recent.
- Norm received inquiry from woman who lives on Pleasant Street to see what we as a committee are going to do to save it.

Stephanie's last meeting. Norm shared his appreciation for Stephanie's participation on the committee for nine years.

Other: Grange: Stephanie reported seeing activity in May.

Next Meeting: June 19, 2019

#### **Adjournment**

Leslie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40, which was second by Alexandra. It passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zenya Molnar  
Secretary