

**Northborough Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes for October 16, 2019**

Present: Zenya Molnar, Norm Corbin, Brian Smith, Leslie Harrison, Millie Milton, Bruce Chute, Julianne Hirsch, Mike Duchesneau, Alexandra Molnar

Guests: Brian Swanson, Lisa Maselli, and Nancy Harlan.

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

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Brian made motion to approve the meeting minutes of September 18, 2019 with no edits. Zenya seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Applefest booth:

- People excited to see cemetery restoration posters.

Historic Bronze Markers:

- Norm ordered Cyrus Gale General Store and Cold Harbor Brook Bridge signs.
- Norm still to find out where general store sign should go (will meet with property owners) - Old Native American Path: still need to finalize text. Zenya to send out revised text.

Cemetery Interpretive Sign: Alex to look at information that Amy White gave her to find the contact at Assabet Regional High School.

Antique Home Owners Preservation information: 25 letters sent to owners of homes older than 1800, and four people responded.

- 302 Church Street
- 1 Mentzer Avenue
- 500 Green Street
- 216 Newton Street

NHDC Representation at town committees update:

- Master Plan Committee Meeting: October 24 meeting will be postponed.
- CPC: first meeting is November 14. Applications are due November 1.
- White Cliffs committee: Original plan was to repair entire roof. The (DCAMM) has given the town an emergency waiver to repair the roof leaks. The current plan is to repair the skylight (which is leaking). Waiting to hear back from roofers on cost. The architectural firm had been given the authorization to start the evaluation of possible reuse options.

Letters of Appreciation:

- Possible ideas: Armeno Coffee Roasters, farmhouse on corner of West and Crawford, and a refurbished house in the center of town. Bruce to write/format letters.

Newspaper articles:

- o Meeting House marker and gravestone restoration. Alex to follow up regarding Meeting House article.
- Norm to follow up with Bonnie Adams at Community Advocate to write article on gravestone restoration.

Northgate Development: Julianne talked with Beryl Krause on the history of Northgate. Several similar Neighborhoods include : Northgate, Cedar Hill, and Pine Haven. Neighborhoods date back to 1950s and built during transition period when Northborough became more of a suburb and less of a farm town. Most famous resident was Mark Fidrych. Still determining next steps, whether we want an article or a marker. Norm mentioned “I grew up in Northgate” page on Facebook—Alex will research further.

Route 20 Historic Highway Signage: \$90 per sign for highway grade with feature, like a QR code. Paul Desrosiers, who spoke on Northborough gas stations along Route 20, may be a good contact regarding Route 20 in Northborough per Mike. We can use money from the NHDC budget. Next step is Leslie will discuss with Scott Charpentier with DPW.

Mass Historic Preservation Conference, Plymouth MA, September 20, 2019:

- Zenya, Alex, Norm, Lisa, and Julianne attended.
- Alex attended talks on cemetery preservation and action required to prepare for changes spurred by climate change.
- Julianne attended talk on keeping interest in preserving Brookfield Town Hall. Norm added that the five examples discussed were still in early stages of renovations and evaluating reuse options.
- Lisa and Zenya attended a house tour and noted how different artifacts from various eras are used throughout the house in order to highlight the various histories of the house.

New Business

CPA funding requests (request needed by November 1):

- Howard Street Cemetery: Scott Charpentier wants to understand what it means to be on the National Register (mostly prestige; there are no restrictions). Norm waiting on cost estimates for preparing nomination documentation, which needs to be written by a professional. Norm presented the MA Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program, which will pay 50% of the cost of the National Register application; the letter of intent is due November 18. One advantage of being on the National Register is that the property is eligible for receiving grant funding for restoration projects.
 - o Leslie moved to pursue CPA funding for cemetery to put Howard Street Cemetery on National Register. Alex seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

- Norm requested a vote to submit application for MA Historical Commission Survey and Planning Grant Program. Leslie so moved. Bruce seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Restoration of civil war monument: Norm volunteered NHDC to lead. Norm received various estimates to restore: \$2500-\$4000 and \$10,000.
 - Veterans Heritage Grant: up to \$15,000 per project.
 - We could also seek private donations from veterans and others.
 - Norm requested a vote that we submit a CPA request for cleaning the Civil War memorial. Bruce so moved. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Norm requested a vote to apply for the SHRAB Heritage Grant. Leslie so moved. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Bruce had suggested meeting occasionally with other area historic commissions. Bruce will reach out to other commissions to gauge interest. -
- No mail.
- Town upgraded website; there are some glitches in which links don't work. See NHDC website linked from Town page.

Next meeting date: November 20, 2019.

Adjournment

Leslie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm. Millie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zenya Molnar
Secretary