

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – November 4, 2013**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Leslie Rutan, Chairman
Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman
Jeff Amberson, Clerk
Aaron Hutchins
William Pantazis

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 21, 2013 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the October 21, 2013 regular meeting as submitted; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion, all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – OCTOBER 28, 2013 SPECIAL MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the October 28, 2013 special meeting as submitted; Selectman Amberson seconded the motion, all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - EDWARD DONNELLY

Request that Northborough be proclaimed as a Purple Heart Community.

Northborough resident Edward Donnelly, a recipient of two Purple Hearts, was present on behalf of the Massachusetts Military Order of the Purple Heart to request the Board's consideration to join other communities in proclaiming Northborough as a Purple Heart Community. Following a presentation on the history of the Purple Heart and the National Service Program, the Board thanked Mr. Donnelly and all veterans for their service.

Selectman Amberson moved the Board vote to proclaim the Town of Northborough as a Purple Heart Community in honor of the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform that were wounded or killed while serving to protect the freedom enjoyed by all Americans; Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion.

Selectman Amberson read the proclamation in its entirety and presented it to Mr. Donnelly on behalf of the Board and the citizens of Northborough.

**7:15 p.m. - BRIAN SMITH, HISTORICAL COMMISSION CHAIR.
KATHY JOUBERT, TOWN PLANNER**

1. Discussion on proposed Warrant Article for the 2014 Annual Town Meeting to have Historical Commission also serve as the Local Historic District Commission per MGL Chapter 40C Section 14.
2. To consider a Request to establish a Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC).

Discussion on proposed Warrant Article for the 2014 Annual Town Meeting

Town Planner Kathy Joubert and Historical Commission Chairman Brian Smith were present. Ms. Joubert informed the Board that in 1973, Northborough created a Local Historic District known as the Meeting House Common District. In addition, a Local Historic District Commission was also created. This commission has been nonexistent for over 25 years. Based on the work of the Historical Commission and the active interest of the community to preserve and protect additional buildings, the Historical Commission is requesting that the Local Historic District Commission be re-established.

Mr. Smith informed the Board that Historical Commissions may also serve as the Local Historic District if Town Meeting so votes. With this in mind, the Historical Commission is seeking support from the Board of Selectmen to place an article on the 2014 Annual Town Meeting warrant allowing the Historical Commission to also serve as the Local Historic District Commission.

To consider a Request to establish a Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC).

Mr. Smith informed the Board that the Historical Commission is interested in pursuing the creation of additional historic districts, mainly single lot historic districts. Because we do not currently have a Local Historic District Commission, a Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) must be first be created. The purpose of the LHDSC is to investigate and report on the historic significance of buildings, structures, features, sites or surroundings of any proposed local historic district or districts that the LHDSC may recommend. Following a public hearing, the LHDSC would prepare a final report with its recommendations, a map of the proposed district or districts and a draft of the proposed bylaw for inclusion on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Following the presentation and several comments and questions from members of the Board, Mr. Coderre recommended that the Board take it under advisement until such a time that more information is provided.

Members of the Board agreed that they would be interested in moving forward with the above-mentioned requests following the receipt of additional information from the Historical Commission.

REPORTSAaron Hutchins

- Noted his appreciation to everyone who helped to coordinate the Special Town Meeting. See below for further discussion.

William Pantazis

- Noted that the Interview Committee met with applicants for the Cultural Council. See below for appointments.

Jeff Amberson, Clerk

- Thanked everyone for their efforts in coordinating the Special Town Meeting.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman

- Noted that the Staffing Committee continues to meet.
- In response to her earlier request, she noted that Building Inspector Fred Lonardo met with representatives at the White Cliffs, who have agreed to provide additional handicap signage at the Main entrance of the building.

Leslie Rutan, Chair.

- Thanked everyone who helped to support the Boy and Girl Scouts during the annual Scouting for Food Drive.
- Thanked DPW Director Dan Nason for the helpful information on the utility rate adjustment that was included in the 2nd quarter water & sewer bills.
- Encouraged residents to look up the Algonquin High School's website to see all that's happening in sports and music.

John Coderre, Town Administrator

- No report.

DISCUSSION ON SPECIAL TOWN MEETING VOTE ON ARTICLE 2 AND ON PROCEDURAL PROCESS FOR REAPPOINTMENTS

Under his report, Selectman Hutchins questioned whether or not the Board should respond to those residents who were present at the Special Town Meeting and voted to support Article 2. He feels that even though the article did not pass, those residents who voted in favor of it should be recognized. His opinion is that as the appointing authority to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Board of Selectmen should acknowledge that there are residents who are not happy with the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Other Board members expressed their support for the ZBA and felt that the Town Meeting vote indicated that a significant majority of people did not agree with the petitioners.

Following some further discussion amongst members of the Board, Selectman Hutchins questioned the Board's authority and the process for considering reappointments. Specifically, he inquired as to what criteria the Board should be using or taking into consideration.

Mr. Coderre stated that he will look into the legal framework regarding the Board's authority in terms of making appointments and/or reappointments to boards, committees and commissions, particularly the Zoning Board of Appeals. He will provide information to the Board prior to the next Board meeting.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE CULTURAL COUNCIL

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to appoint Steve Smith to the Cultural Council for a three-year term; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to appoint Myrna Garber to the Cultural Council for a three-year term; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard and Marie Nieber were present in the audience. Mr. Nieber suggested that a link to the Purple Heart website be added to the Town website.

Mrs. Nieber informed the Board that she applied to the State for a preservation restriction on her home at 62 Whitney Street. Although the State has approved the preservation restriction, they will wait to act on it to see what happens with the proposed Local Historic District Study Committee. She urged the Board of Selectmen to support such a committee, as it will prove to be very beneficial in preserving her home.

DISCUSSION ON NORTHBOROUGH'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

In response to an earlier inquiry from Selectman Rand, Mr. Coderre discussed Northborough's 250th Anniversary coming up in 2016. He noted that his office is in the process of conducting research on how other communities have marked similar occasions. He suggested that the Board create an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of up to 9 members.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to establish an Ad Hoc 250th Town Anniversary Committee consisting of up to 9 members for the purpose of coordinating a celebratory event or events to mark the Town's 250th Anniversary in the year 2016; Selectman Hutchins seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

APPROVAL/EXECUTION OF PLOWING AND SANDING AGREEMENTS FOR PRIVATE WAYS FOR THE 2013/2014 WINTER SEASON.

Selectman Hutchins moved the Board vote to approve and execute the plowing and sanding agreements for the 2013/2014 Winter Season for the following private ways;

Maple Lane
37-55 Green Street

Selectman Pantazis seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED A929

Selectman Pantazis moved the Board vote to execute Cemetery Deed A929; Selectman Hutchins seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Hutchins moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. November 4, 2013 Meeting Agenda.
2. October 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes.
3. October 28, 2013 Meeting Minutes.
4. Information packet – Purple Heart Community Request.
5. Information packet – Historical Commission Requests.
6. Memo Re – Northborough’s 250th Anniversary
7. Plowing and Sanding Agreements.
8. Cemetery Deed.