

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes Wednesday April 17, 2013

Present: Norm Corbin, Marie Nieber, Debra Comeau, Brian Smith, Amy White, and Stephanie Stockman

Guest: Bruce Chute

Meeting called to order by Chairman at 7:10PM.

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - The March meeting minutes will be approved at the May meeting.
- Demolition Delay Status
 - 9 Monroe Street
 - The sign for a free home has been set up on the property.
 - 518 Green Street
 - Norm sent the letter to the Board of Selectmen.
- Projects Status
 - John Brigham Mill Sign
 - The sign is ready to be installed.
 - Boston Post Road Sign
 - Norm will speak to DPW of the location of the sign. There is another new sign at the same location.
 - Mary Goodenow Site
 - Sign Repair
 - In process with the Mass D.O.T.
 - Letter to MHC for an “Opinion on Nat. Hist. Reg. Eligibility”
 - In process
 - Cemeteries
 - National Hist. Registration Status for Howard Street
 - In process
 - Amy and Steph will walk the new section of the cemetery.
 - Inventory using a volunteer for Howard Street
 - Norm met with David Kane (MIS)
 - The concern is that the town needs a website that the town can continue to update.
 - David is working with the volunteer.
 - “Master Preservation Plan” for Colonial Era section of Howard Street and Brigham Street
 - This will begin on Friday April 19th.
 - Debra will contact the local papers to update them on this.
 - Brigham Street Marker Preservation and Repairs

- Debra would like to put in for CPC funds for a stone wall or fencing.
- 5 Year Preservation Planning
 - Norm will create a spreadsheet of the five year plan.
- Proposed CPA Funding Signage Design and Text
 - Brian will visit the Northborough Historical Society to find old photographs of the Aqueduct and Assabet Park.
- “Letters of Appreciation” to homeowners upgrading their historic properties
 - Norm mailed out the letters.
 - Possible letter of appreciation - Juniper Golf Course
- Adding Properties to the “Town Common Local Historic District”
 - Brian researched the topic. It is possible to enlarge a district.
 - To extend the district, the NHC would begin the process from the beginning again.
 - There is also an architectural district that might be the direction the NHC may want to research further for Main St.
 - Norm will contact Kathy Joubert to see if the Historic District Commission can be rolled into the Northborough Historical Commission.
- Officers
 - The NHC will vote for new officers in May.
- New Business
 - “Historic Preservation Restrictions” possible financial support with CPA funds
 - Marie Nieber has been researching throughout the state how other properties have undergone preservation restrictions.
 - The typical steps are obtaining a fair market value appraisal, and an appraisal after the restriction. The town will pay the difference in the appraisals and the lawyer fees.
 - John Campbell thought that Marie should place an application in to see if her property could be funded for preservation restrictions.
 - The NHC will have to come up with a process for handling CPC funding requests for preservation restrictions.
 - How can the NHC approach owners of properties in disrepair.
 - Future discussion topic

Adjournment

- Marie Nieber made the motion and it was seconded by Amy White to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Stockman
NHC Committee Member