

## **NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Meeting Minutes for Public Hearing and Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday June 18, 2014

### **Public Hearing Minutes for 41 Winter Street Demolition**

Present: Norm Corbin, Stephen Anderson, Amy White, and Stephanie Stockman

Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Michael Sarbacker – current property owners

Public hearing called to order by Chairman at 7:08PM.

#### **• 41 Winter Street Demolition**

- The homeowners filed a demolition permit.
- The property is on the Mass. State Inventory.
- The NHC would like to walk the property.
  - Homeowners do not know the history of the property. The current owner has owned it for about 25 years. The front of the house has not been updated, except for windows and vinyl siding. Also, it has a detached garage.
- Interior of the house – kitchen has been renovated, and they took down the kitchen ceiling to expose the original chestnut beams. When walking through the house the owners stated that it is warped and falling apart. The 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the main house does not have any heat.
- The owners have replace some of the radiators with baseboards
- Basic structure of the house –
  - 5 bedrooms – all chopped up, and space does not work. Demolishing the house and rebuilding on the site will allow their money to go a lot further, rather than buying a new house
  - Renovating the house would be too costly to repair.
  - There are problems with bats and rodents
  - There are structural issues. Posts have been cut and beams have been sawed in half.
  - The homeowners stated that it's not functional. These are tiny rooms and they are chopped up.
  - The owners would like to take some of the materials from the current house, and incorporate it into the new house. For example, the chestnut beams.
  
- Norm Corbin made a motion that the property at 41 Winter Street is not historically significant nor architecturally significant, and Amy White seconded the motion. The motion was accepted with 3 members voting yes, and one member opposed.

The public hearing meeting was closed at 7:30PM.

### **NHC Monthly Meeting Minutes**

Present: Norm Corbin, Stephen Anderson, Amy White, and Stephanie Stockman

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:35.

#### Monthly Meeting

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
  - Stephen Anderson made a motion to accept the May 14, 2014 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Amy White. The motion was accepted unanimously.
- Project Status
  - Howard Street Cemetery National Registry Application
    - In Process
  - Mary Goodnow Site
    - An archaeologist is reviewing the paperwork.
  - Baptist Church
    - The NHC gained approval for it to be placed on the Massachusetts Registry.
    - Forest Lyford will complete the application.
- Historic House Plaques
  - Steve received examples from Mr. Fouracre of the house plaque forms used by other towns.
  - Bruce is in process of drafting a letter to homeowners to order the plaques.
  - A press release should occur to promote it.
- 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Update
  - A list was created by a member of the Northborough Historical Society of ideas as to how to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- CPA Funding requests for next year
  - Norm will contact Jean Langley re: Cyrus Gale sign
  - Chapinville sign
  - Woodside Mill sign
  - Assabetville Mill sign
  - Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) for Brigham Street Cemetery
- Historic plaques funded by Mr. Robert Trimble
  - In Process
- Street names to be reviewed by the NHC
  - In Process with Deborah
- Preservation Restriction for the Colonial Portion of the Howard Street Cemetery
  - Norm will contact Kathy Joubert to find more information about having the state match funding for the cemetery repairs.
- Charter TV Historical segments

- Ideas
  - Mastodon remains – Norm will contact Beth Finch McCarthy
  - Norm will contact Charter to see if we can promote the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Newspaper article on route 20 becoming an historic road
  - In Process with Bruce
- Historic District commissions
  - No new information

#### New Business

- White Cliffs Update
  - The NHC informed the owner about historic preservation.
    - The owners would like to find out more information about this process.
  - The NHC has to formally request the Massachusetts Historical Commission to evaluate the property to see if a preservation restriction is possible.
  - Norm will CC the state representatives and senators for Northborough.
  - Marie Wyman would like to do a segment on public access on White Cliffs.
    - The NHC would like to encourage Marie to do a program on the history of White Cliffs.
- NHC Officers
  - Stephen Anderson made a motion to make Norm Corbin the acting Chairperson due to the leave of absence from the current chairperson. Amy White seconded, and the motion was accepted unanimously.

#### **Adjournment**

- Steve Anderson made the motion and it was seconded by Amy White to adjourn the meeting at 8:45PM. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Stockman