NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for Monthly Meeting Wednesday September 17, 2014

Present: Brian Smith, Norm Corbin, Bruce Chute, Debra Comeau and Stephanie Stockman

Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:05.

Guests: Micheal Durkin, Jane Fletcher, Amanda Millette, Carol Chione, Rep. Harold Naughton and Debra Rogers

Monthly Meeting

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
 - Bruce Chute made a motion to accept the July 16, 2014 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Debra Comeau. The motion was accepted by four and two sustained.
- Project Status
 - o White Cliffs
 - A Preservation Restriction can only be applied by the owner
 - MHC has to say it is acceptable for preservation
 - Norm sent letters to the MHC with photos from the inside and outside
 - Norm received the final letter from the MHC
 - White Cliffs did not meet MHC's acceptability
 - Preservation Restriction does not apply
 - The MHC stated that preservation may be possible in the future if "substantial rehabilitation" occurred to the outside of the property.
 - Michael Durkin (realtor for the property) the property is still for sale
 - There have been many potential buyers. One serious buyer, came to see it four times. The buyer decided the cost would be too much (2 million for purchase plus 4 million for renovations for a total of 6 million) to renovate for a restaurant function hall facility.
 - All the potential buyers have said the same thing it needs sprinkler system and an elevator to the third floor. All say it's too expensive.
 - State Representative Harold Naughton
 - Rep. Naughton would like someone from The Secretary of State's office to become involved with protecting the property.
 - While brainstorming ideas, Rep. Naughton brought up the idea of a non-profit purchasing the property, perhaps Veterans, Inc. (to build apartments/condos for veterans).

- Northborough Affordable Housing Corp
 - Jane Fletcher
 - They do not have any money.
 - They would have to ask for CPA funds, but the property is not eligible since MHC denied a preservation restriction.
 - o Norm preservation would be best idea
- Carol word of mouth is the way to get change done
- Northborough Historic District Commission (NHDC)
 - The Board of Selectmen have activated the NHDC.
 - The MHC requires a town vote there needs to be clarification as to whether this needs to be voted on a Town meeting
 - This will become the new commission
 - The NHC needs to disband once the NHDC members are sworn in.
 - The current NHC members will need to reapply to be on the NHDC
 - The NHDC requests an architect and a realtor to be committee members.
 - o 30 days to make recommendation
 - o 7 people
 - o 2 people may have to leave, but they can be an alternates
 - There can be 4 alternates.
 - If the NHC doesn't merge, then there will be two commissions.
 - Norm Corbin made a motion that the Northborough Historic District Commission takes on the responsibilities of the Northborough Historic Commission, and merge them together. Debra Comeau seconded, and it was accepted unanimously (5 votes).
- Planning for Applefest
 - Steph will put together a poster about The Howard Street Cemetery.
 - The booth will be open from 9-3 with an 8am setup.
 - 8am setup Norm and Steph
 - 9-11 Steph and Norm
 - 11-1 Bruce and Steve
 - 1-3 Debra and Norm (breakdown)
- CPA Funding requests update
 - The NHC will request 4 signs, rather than 3 signs.
- National Historic Register
 - Baptist Church
 - Forest has reviewed the application, and it will be submitted to the MHC.
 - Mary Goodnow
 - Debra will contact the MHC regarding the official letter accepting the site to the Mass. Historical Register.
 - Howard Street Cemetery
 - In process

- Historic House Plaque Program
 - Bruce is in the process of writing the letter.
- 250th Celebration
 - A tour
 - Author to make a presentation
 - Essay contest for the schools
- Historic Plaques funded by Mr. Robert Trimble
 - Norm sent a letter to Mr. Trimble
 - In process with Steve
- Cemetery signs (CPA funded)
 - Debra is working on this
- Colonial Headstones Preservation (CPA funded)
 - Preservation Restriction for Matching Funds
 - Need to write a proposal on how we want them done with a certified contractor.
 - In process
 - In March we can apply for matching funds
- Street names review by the Historic Commission
 - Kathy Joubert said that we should review names
- o Charter TV-3 Hidden History segments
 - Debra and Beth Finch McCarthy possibly to discuss Brigham Street Cemetery.
- Newspaper article on Route 20 becoming an historic road
 - There is an organization about historic route 20 online.
- Video project
 - They have found a narrator who was part of the local Boston news crew.
- New Business
 - o 39 West Main Street Study Committee
 - Town would like to put a study committee to find out what to do with it. They would like to have someone from the NHC. There will be several meetings between now and December.
 - Amy or Brian may possibly be on the committee?
 - o Sign for 130 Main St. (Hunt Shoe Mfg.)
 - Steve will be asked to look into this.
 - New fencing around Mary Goodnow Grave Site (Community Advocate)
 - This is complete and was made possible by an anonymous donor.
 - Mass DOT upgrade of Bartlett/Main St. traffic lights
 - Bruce will review this, and send a letter.
 - New Book "The Birth of the Pill," by Jonathan Eig
 - Mr. Trimble would like to have him present at the unveiling of the sign.
 - Norm has contacted Mr. Eig, and he may be interested in participating.
 - o DOT letter for milestone marker upgrade cleaning and straightening the stones.

- Bruce will look into this.
- The NHC would like to express how happy we are Brian's return!!!! Welcome back!

Adjournment

Norm Corbin made the motion and it was seconded by Brian Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:31PM. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Stockman