

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
 - 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).

- 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
- 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
 - 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?
 - 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.
 - 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