

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for Monthly Meeting
Wednesday January 21, 2015

Present: Brian Smith, Norm Corbin, Bruce Chute, Amy White, Stephen Anderson, and Stephanie Stockman

Public Hearing regarding the demolition permit for the Barn at 206 South Street

Chairman called the public hearing to order at 7:05.

Guests: Selectman Pantazis, Mr. Pember, Michael Durkin, Molly Durkin, Bret Steiman, and John Mshooshian

- Information on the barn – There is historical information on the house, but not on the barn.
- Brian and Norm walked through the property, and in their opinion the barn is new. There are cut boards, and the roof was rebuilt after the hurricane in the 1950s. The walls and floor have poured concrete.
- There is a possibility that there are old boards in the barn from the 1800s. This information came from a report in the Northborough Historical Society archives. However, when Norm and Brian walked through the property, they did not see any boards with historical significance.
- Norm discussed that the barn may not be in our jurisdiction because it is newer than 100 years.
- Steve Anderson made a motion that the demolition delay of the barn at 206 South Street be waived. Amy White seconded, and it was accepted unanimously.
- Norm will send a letter to the Board of Selectmen, building inspector, and property owners with our decision.

Norm Corbin made a motion to close the public hearing at 7:35PM. Steve Anderson seconded, and it was accepted unanimously.

Northborough Historic Commission Monthly Meeting

Chairman called the monthly meeting to order at 7:36.

Guests: Selectman Pantazis, Michael Durkin, Molly Durkin

New Business: 167 Main St (White Cliffs), Demolition Delay

- It was discussed that we need to have a public hearing on February 11th. The place and time is to be announced. Norm will work with Diane Wackell to set up a date and time for the public hearing.
- Norm Corbin made a motion to change our next meeting date to February 11th. Amy White seconded, and it was accepted unanimously.

- Michael Durkin discussed that the owners wanted to start the process. They know it will be controversial, but they wanted the process to move forward. The owners are flexible. It doesn't mean the building will come down right away. This is a strategic move to get the clock moving. They don't have anyone demolishing the property at this moment.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Steve Anderson made a motion to accept the December 17, 2014 meeting minutes. It was seconded by Amy White. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Projects Status

- Central MA Regional Planning Commission
 - No update
- Street Naming for Sterling Court Development
 - Norm Corbin made a motion that the NHC has accepted the Sterling Court street name. It was seconded by Amy White, and it was accepted unanimously.
 - It was determined that the commission needs to revise the street name list.
 - Norm will send a letter to the owner, Town Planner, and Chair of The Board of Selectmen.
- Historic House Plaque Program
 - Steve will send the letters out to current homeowners of historical properties.
 - Norm and Steve will finalize the list and addresses.
 - Steph will print out the letters and envelopes.
 - Sign for 130 Main St. (Hunt Shoe mfg.)
 - The NHC received a letter from Mr. Shea. The quote he received was for \$1800 for a bronze sign.
 - The quote the NHC received was for an aluminum sign that was between 200 and 400 dollars.
 - Bill Pantazis volunteered to follow-up with the developer regarding the sign.
- 39 West Main Street Ad-Hoc Study Comm.
 - In process
- Historic Plaques funded by Mr. Robert Trimble
 - Norm sent a letter to Mr. Trimble regarding the size of the sign and contacting the current homeowners.
 - He responded to Norm indicating that he would support the NHC with what we recommended for the size of the sign.
 - He also sent a check for \$1000. Norm will contact Mr. Tremble and thank him for his commitment. It was agreed that the check was premature at this time and will be returned.
- CPA Funding requests for April 2015
 - Four requests
 - GPR at Old Brigham Cemetery – will put in a warrant
 - Historical markers – will put in a warrant
 - White Cliffs Preservation – deferred

- Historical Preservation Fund – \$55,000 was approved
 - Notes from Cemetery Commission Meeting on January 6th
 - Norm updated the commission of the NHC projects
 - Granite cornerstones at Brigham Street Cemetery – The land needs to be surveyed for accurate boundaries
 - Howard Cemetery Street Signs – signs could be changed in the future if it affects the historic integrity
 - New Cemetery Signs (CPA funded)
 - No new updates
 - Colonial Headstones Preservation (CPA funded)
 - No new updates
- **New Business**
 - 25 Main Street (was Lowe's Market)
 - An addition is being built on to it with additional parking.
 - The proposed design will be a nice improvement to the current structure.
 - Chris Skelly of the MHC has requested input regarding our experience with demolition delays.
 - Norm will forward our comments that include:
 - There is no flexibility in the bylaw for the NHC to ask to include to keep the façade.
 - Tried to increase to 12 months.
 - The 6 month delay is not long enough
 - We do have an NHDC – which is a positive
 - The goal is to look for alternatives.
 - Letters of Appreciation Ideas
 - Generate a list of properties for letters
 - Update on the 250th anniversary
 - Mr. and Mrs. Sharp had to resign for family reasons.
 - There has been one position filled and there is one opening.
- **Adjournment**
 - Steve Anderson made the motion and it was seconded by Amy White to adjourn the meeting at 8:37PM. The motion was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Stockman