

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for Monthly Meeting
Wednesday March 18, 2015

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

Guests: Marie Nieber, Brian Farr (President of the Historic US Route 20 Association)

Chairman called the monthly meeting to order at 7:03.

- Historic US Route 20 Association
 - Bryan Farr presented to the NHC
 - He set up the organization to find out more information about Route 20.
 - Now people are contacting the organization
 - It's becoming a tourist destination to drive on route 20
 - Rte 20 goes from Massachusetts to Oregon
 - It's a cross country highway – he wants people to think nationally but act locally
 - Rte 66 and Rte 20 were created on the same day
 - Would like people to say “Historic Route 20.”
 - Cannot think of it only as the Boston Post Road. The Post Road is only 33 miles. Route 20 is 153 miles long in Massachusetts.
 - 1926-1932 – Rte 20 was between Northborough and Palmer
 - Later Rte 20 was moved further south.
 - Some national maps eliminate US 20
 - The organization would like to promote historical markers along Rte 20.
 - These are historical markers, not highway markers.
 - The color is brown for historic significance.
 - The signs are the same used to designate historic route 66 and US 6.
 - It would be placed on the historic Route 20 not necessarily on the current Route 20.
 - How to place
 - Pass legislation in the commonwealth to designate US Route 20 as an historic road.
 - Get MassDOT approval on State highway sections to place markers for each town
 - Local approval to place markers on town maintained roads
 - Private property

- They are 24x36 and cost \$90.00 each (minimum 2 per town (east/west))
- 12x24 \$25.00 each
 - Great to place in small businesses, historic sites, promotional pieces
- Each town is responsible for erecting costs, poles hardware, and labor
- Impact – increase tourism, and increase in sales

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Amy White made a motion to accept the January 21st, and The White Cliffs public hearing meeting minutes. It was seconded by Brian Smith. The motion was accepted unanimously.

- Projects Status

- Merging both Commissions (Name, Term Limits, Alternates)
 - 3 things need to be addressed
 - Name
 - It will be a Northborough Historic District Commission.
 - Term limits
 - We will recommend that term limits be removed.
 - The NHC would like to take out “no member may serve on the Commission for more than six (6) consecutive years.”
 - Alternates
 - We can have up to 7 alternates.
 - Diane’s recommendation is to keep the alternates.
 - Town Meeting Article, Merging Commissions (Slides for Town Meeting)
 - We need to supply slides for our two articles at Town Meeting
 - White Cliffs – Preservation Restriction Update
 - Norm wrote a rough draft for the MHC to reconsider their decision.
 - Norm sent letters
 - to an architect in Portsmouth
 - A boutique hotel in Boston
 - All have experience working with historical properties
 - Ruth Chris Steak House
 - Town’s 250th Celebration
 - Gala has been scheduled – January 30th
 - Opening ceremony on January 24, 2016 (Unitarian Church will include a donated cake by “The Cake Boss” from New Jersey)
 - There will be a request on the Town Warrant for \$20,000 to go toward the 250th celebration.
 - Historic House Plaque Program

- Ms. Reagan of the assessor's office has been extremely helpful with assisting with lists of homeowners to send these letters out.
 - Steve will send a list of addresses and Bruce will send the letter to Steph. And, Steph will create a mail merge to send out the letter.
- Sign for 130 Main St (Hunt Shoe Mfg.)
 - In Process
- 39 West Main Street Study Comm.
 - They recommended to keep wait on demolition to see how best to utilize the land and possibly purchase nearby parcels.
- Historic Plaques funded by Mr. Robert Trimble
 - Norm returned the \$1,000.00 check
 - Norm sent a letter to the current homeowners at 30 Main Street
- CPA Funding requests for April 2015 (Slides for Town Meeting)
 - Town meeting will need slides
 - GPR
 - Signs
 - Bank Funds
- Colonial Headstones Preservation (CPA funded)
 - Norm contacted the state to see if Northborough could get 50/50 for the headstones. Waiting to hear back.
- Adjournment
 - Brian Smith made a motion and it was seconded by Amy White to adjourn the meeting at 8:35PM. It was accepted unanimously.