

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for Monthly Meeting
Wednesday March 23, 2016
Conference Room C (The Kitchen)
63 Main St, Northborough

Present: Bruce Chute, Norm Corbin, Ben Davies, Amy White, Leslie Harrison, Stephanie Stockman, and Bob Ellis

Guests: Scott D. Charpentier, DPW and Jane Bruce

Alternates: Brian Smith

Chairman called the monthly meeting to order at 7:00.

AGENDA

- Public Hearing: Church Street Bridge demolition delay
 - Demo permit pulled
 - Scott D. Charpentier from DPW is presenting the information tonight
 - Final construction is on town meeting warrant
 - Norm – Why does it need to be demolished?
 - Granite slab that is separated (cracking)
 - The roadway is falling between them
 - Structurally unsound
 - The bridge needs to be replaced
 - Currently there is a jersey barrier in place of a wall, and the cobblestone wall that is still intact is in disrepair
 - Would it possible to put in a new cobblestone wall on the current bridge?
 - It is structurally problematic to do this.
 - The town will save everything they can save (that is structurally sound)
 - NHDC would like to attend a meeting to give input as to the look of the top of the new wall, once the contractor is chosen.
 - The top on both sides of the road will be fully replaced.
 - The side of the culvert will remain in place
 - Norm Corbin made a motion that the Church Street Culvert is not historically significant and in disrepair, and was seconded by Amy White. It was passed unanimously.
 - THE NHDC would like to go on record to say that they would like the materials to be re-used for the town commons.
 - Leslie Harrison made a motion to close the hearing at 7:19 and this was seconded Amy White. It was passed unanimously.
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

- Amy White made a motion to accept the February 17, 2016 meeting minutes with the amendment to add Bob Ellis's name. Norm Corbin seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.
- Cemetery signs
 - Sign design
 - Hanging from a chain or on a post
 - The NHDC prefers the chain
 - Waiting for quote from Unisign
- Chapinville, Assabetville, Woodside signs
 - Norm has an update
 - Need to have three quotes
 - Expose, Crown, Unisign
 - Waiting for Unisign
- Peter Whitney parsonage sign
 - It is not secure enough to the pole.
 - They are going to secure it better.
- Howard Street Cemetery National Historic Register
 - Submitted in February
- Brigham St. cemetery GPR
 - In Process
 - Stephanie will contact Southborough Historic Commission re: GPR project that they did in a cemetery 8 years ago.
 - Stephanie needs to research what we need to do to be compliant with state cemetery regulations.
- Colonial headstones preservation
 - Norm was working on the grant 50/50 state grant. He attempted to find the deed, but did not meet the deadline to submit the grant.
 - Currently, we are funded for \$70,000.
 - A form request may be needed from the state before the colonial headstones can be preserved.
- 250th celebration update
 - April 9th – there will be a 250th tea at Trinity Church.
 - 250th Committee will sponsor a tour of the town on trolley on May 15th.
 - One more volunteer is needed.
 - There are three tours - 11am, 1pm, and 3pm
 - There will be 3 volunteers on the trolley – narrator, driver, and assistant.
- White Cliffs update
 - CPC meeting tomorrow
 - Total dollar value - \$1.8 to 1.9 million
 - \$700,000 in reserve
 - \$400,000 NHC
 - \$300,00 General
 - \$1.1 million not available
 - Needs to go out to bond
 - 2/3 vote at town meeting

- \$700,000 already there
 - 1.1 million – future CPA funds
 - CPC money is 1.5% based on each owner’s property value – it’s not a tax, it’s a surcharge.
 - Need to get information out to the public
 - Lawn signs
 - Working with town common
 - Cable
 - Northborough commons to work with us
 - Norm Corbin made a motion that the NHDC use the \$250.00 in the NHDC budget to be used for marketing the saving of White Cliffs. Bruce Chute seconded, and it passed unanimously.
 - Amy White would like to a motion to rescind that the NHDC use the \$250.00 in the NHDC budget to be used for marketing the saving of White Cliffs. Norm Corbin seconded, and it passed unanimously.
 - Bob Ellis was asked to recuse from the White Cliffs discussion, and he did so.
 - Prior to this, Bob did not make any comments towards the White Cliffs discussion.
 - Norm Corbin made a motion that the NHDC revote that they will use the \$250.00 in the NHDC budget for the use of marketing the saving of White Cliffs. Amy White seconded, and it passed unanimously.
- Homeowners Guideline for Design Review in a Historic District
 - Amy has been working on these guidelines, and requested edits from members.
 - The NHDC will continue to review the draft from Amy with the revisions from Leslie.
- Bob Trimble passed away.
 - His family is going to continue with half the funding for the Mark Fidrych sign.
 - Norm is in contact with Mr. Trimble’s son-in-law to continue on working the sign project.
- New Business
 - Terms
 - Bob Ellis will resign from the commission at the end of his term.
 - Amy will renew her membership commission.
 - Full-time member slot will be opening up.
 - Marie Nieber will renew as an alternate member.
- Next meeting – April 6th – at 6:30PM - White Cliffs
- Adjournment
 - Leslie Harrison made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00PM, and it was seconded by Amy White. It was accepted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Stockman