

Meeting Minutes

NORTHBOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Wednesday September 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM
Northborough Town Hall
Room C (Kitchen), Second Floor
63 Main Street, Northborough MA

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

Alternates: Brian Smith

Guests present during Public Hearing: Ed Harlow, Gordon Hart, Dick Boutilier, George Pember

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00

Meeting Minutes:

- Public hearing: First Parish Church
 - Considering 3 possible outcomes for application
 - Certificate of Appropriateness
 - Certificate of Non applicability
 - Certificate of Hardship
 - Focus is on the bell tower
 - Needs paint and has worn clock faces
 - Leaky Bell Tower, leaks into the area below – not a new leak ~15/20 yrs old
 - Cell phone towers made some carpentry changes
 - Problem ‘solved’ by swimming pools and pumps (drought is good!)
 - Reroofing an caulking helped but did not solve the problem
 - Louvers in the bell tower to block the rain – this would be a change
 - Architecturally harmonious with other louvers, but bell would not be able to be seen
 - Dark green to match the ones that are already there
 - The wheel chair ramp is on hold for the time being, question is where it goes
 - Amy White asks: Does any of the structure seem to be rotted because of all of the rain
 - Answer: No, not as we can see
 - Amy White asks: Is there any additional roof or shingling work required?
 - Answer: It would include retopping copper on top of cupola
 - Norm Corbin asks: Is there concern that the architectural features of the steeple will change, the pictures have open bell tower and the first change would be to add louvers.
 - Answer: It is not uncommon that bell towers of louvers
 - Leslie Harrison asks: Could we do something like clear louvers?
 - Answer: There is a concern of durability and coloring

- Norm Corbin asks: Is there a concern that the louvers won't necessarily fix the problem?
- Stephanie Stockman asks: Does the bell work?
 - Answer: Yes
- Bruce Chute asks: Have you ever gone back to the cell tower for remediation?
 - Answer: No
- CPC has allocated up to \$54K
- Be cautious of where the wheelchair ramp goes – visible from road
- Bruce moves to approve the application for certificate of appropriateness for the first parish Unitarian church of Northborough dates July 29th, 2016. Leslie was so moved, Amy seconds with a unanimous decision.
- Norm motions to close the public hearing, Amy seconds, with a unanimous decision to follow

- Approval of previous meeting minutes
 - April minutes – Norm motions to approve as amended with last names, Amy seconds with unanimous decision to follow
 - May minutes – All are in favor of accepting minutes
 - July minutes –Debrah Comeau name change (Change from Claxton), Norm makes motion to accept July minutes, Amy seconds, Leslie thirds, unanimous to follow
- Cemetery signs
 - Leslie – Sign is up, posts up for back side of howard and brigham street
- Brigham St. cemetery boundary survey
 - Norm has contacted Dan about boundary survey from DPW, believes it is done
- Brigham St. cemetery GPR
 - No update, Norm to possibly support as well as the new members
 - Stephanie will send updates to Norm
- Colonial headstones preservation
 - Bruce received a response from Quincy asst city planner, yet to follow up with her to obtain copy of their RFP
- Existing historic signs update
 - All signs showing 4 signs oxidation, have been approved but not installed yet –
 - Chapinville, Asabetville, woodside on hold until
 - Leslie Harrison asks: Have we thought about Spite house?
- 250th celebration
 - Saturday night – cemetery tour, 7 oclock
 - 250th finale – October 29th, dress up, band, \$50 per ticket held where the gala is
- White Cliffs
 - Evaluation of property
 - First report was july, PCB, asbestos, oil, lead paint (environmental)
 - A lot of lead paint, does not matter if no one under 6 lives there
 - some asbestos found
 - Leslie Harrison asks: Would a B&B need lead remediation?
 - There is a buried underground oil tank, GPR to find, no previous knowledge, with some oil still in it
 - removing the tank is \$60K
 - Monday night Board of Selectman meeting – discussion topic
 - Lacava is willing to cover \$60K to remove, any additional would have to be covered
- Design review guidelines
 - Bruce will talk to the town about getting them to the town

- New Business
 - Trinity church came in for possible CPA funds. They have pulled out their application
- Amy motions to adjourn at 8:20 PM, Alexandra seconds, with a unanimous decision to follow