

# NORTHBOROUGH HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes for Wednesday August 9, 2017

Present: Bruce Chute, Norm Corbin, Amy White, Leslie Harrison, Stephanie Stockman, Alexandra Molnar, Zenya Molnar, Brian Smith (Alternate)

### Meeting called to order at 7:00

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 222 West Main Street – Demolition Request
  - This property consists of 3.1 acres with a barn, large garage and antique brick home built in 1760.
  - Robert Gleeson represented Mr. Abu the current owner
  - Mr. Gleeson mentioned that the property was purchased for future development. There are no specific plans available at this time. The demolition request is to leave all options open for future development.
  - The property is located in Residential Zone
  - A walk through of the property was done by Norm Corbin & Brian Smith. Their consensus was that the brick section of the house has significant historic architecture both inside and outside.
  - Leslie made a motion that the property is considered historically significant and the 180 day demolition delay be continued. Seconded by Amy. Unanimous vote in favor of continuing the delay.
  - It was suggested that the developer visit the NHDC in 3 months for possible reconsideration of the delay.
  
- 131 Brigham Street – Demolition Request
  - This property consists of 1.0 acre with two attached dwellings of wooden construction with the oldest section built around 1792.
  - Mr. Steve MacDonald represented Ms. Janet Bertucci the current owner.
  - Mr. MacDonald is a neighbor interested in building a new home for his family on the site if the dwelling can be demolished.
  - The house has been on the market since November 2016.
  - A walk through of the property was done by Norm Corbin & Brian Smith. Their consensus was that the dwelling has had significant alterations with very little historic architecture remaining.
  - Amy made a motion that the property is NOT historically significant and the 180 day demolition delay be waived. Seconded by Zenya. Unanimous vote in favor of waiving the demolition delay.

### Public Hearings Closed

### REGULAR MEETING

- **Approval of previous meeting minutes:**
  - Norm made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 21<sup>st</sup>, seconded by Amy and passed unanimously.
  - Leslie made the motion to accept the meeting minutes of July 7<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Amy and passed unanimously.

- **Brigham St. Cemetery GPR:**
  - From Scott Charpentier e-mail August 2<sup>nd</sup>: We requested quotes from three firms for the Brigham Street Burial Ground GPR project. One firm did not respond, a second replied in writing that they are not available to perform the work this year. The third firm, Capital Environmental, submitted a base quote of \$18,700 which is for the GPR work, and an alternate quote of \$3,200 for the map preparation. It is my recommendation that the base project be awarded to Capital Environmental for \$18,700 and the mapping component scope of work be negotiated to allow that work to be performed within the available \$20,000 budget.
  - Norm will follow-up with the DPW director with the following NHDC input:
    - 1) Keep us in the loop for when the work would start
    - 2) Find out if the use of several volunteers will help reduce the price
    - 3) The entire site will need to be cleaned. Especially the rear area which is buried in leaves.
    - 4) It would make sense to start the GPR testing near the gravestones that exist. That would help determine the accuracy of the test method. If the testing there is inconclusive, maybe we need to determine if the evaluation should continue.
- **Colonial Headstones Preservation:**
  - Norm contacted five Towns that had this type of effort in the past. Four responded with copies of their RFQ's. Plymouth, Mansfield, Duxbury, Weston. These were forwarded to the DPW Director.
  - DPW Director e-mail August 2<sup>nd</sup>: It has become clear to me through review of the many documents that we have obtained that this work is well outside of my expertise. At this point I recommend we seek an expert in the field to assist us with preparing the procurement package and overseeing the work. The only issue is that the firm we choose to help us will not be allowed to perform the restoration work.
- **Historic Signs Update:**
  - Cemetery Signs – Leslie made a motion to correct the date of the Howard Street Cemetery Sign to 1837 by installing the correct date on a plaque covering the wrong date. Norm seconded, it passed unanimously. Funding for this will be from last year's NHDC budget.
  - Assabetville, Woodside, Chapinville sign posts have been installed. When the cement dries, the signs will be added.
  - Mark Fidrych – Sign was ordered and received. Location to be decided by Memorial Field Committee. Dedication on Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup> as part of Fidrych Foundation Softball event.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting House – Zenya presented a revised wording. It was well received with only a few edits. The title will be changed to include the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting houses. Zenya will forward the revision to Norm for a mock-up from Crown Trophy. Amy contacted the Historical Society for better images of the 1808 Unitarian Church. She brought several to the meeting for review. Three were selected as possibilities but they need some image refinement. Bruce was given all three (63.41d, 69.198, 83.6.12.d) to have his daughter try to improve the images.
- **White Cliffs Update:**
  - Nothing to report
- **New Business:**
  - Amy checked with the Historical Society regarding the property at 110 Howard St. The owner mentioned that it was used as a tuberculosis retreat in the past. The Society had no information. WE should consider requesting the owner forward his info to the society.
  - Jen Grenowski had contacted the NHDC for some volunteer work during the summer. She ended up volunteering for the Historical Society.
  - Due to scheduling conflicts, we will not participate in the Applefest Street Fair this year
  - CPA funding requests will be decided at the next meeting
- **Next Meeting:**
  - Wednesday September 20<sup>th</sup>
- **Adjournment**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Normand Corbin, Secretary