

Historic District Commission Meeting

January 23rd, 2019

Meeting called to order at 7:10p.m.

In attendance: Brian Smith (alternate), Amy White, Norm Corbin, Bruce Chute, Zenya Molnar, Alexandra Molnar, Julianne Hirsh (selectman liaison.)

Old Business:

156 Pleasant Street: Norm reported that the real estate agent who is listing the property has had a few inquiries but nothing substantial. The demolition delay is over in mid-February.

Master Plan Steering Committee: The committee is still reviewing recommendations. The next public meeting is scheduled for February 13th and Norm will inform us of the location.

White Cliffs Reuse Committee: There was a press release indicating that the contract between the town and DBVW has been signed. The first order of business will be to look at the leaks and get very detailed blue prints using new technology. Norm will check at the Antiquarian Society for old records on the building but so far any research for old blueprints has not proven to be fruitful.

Historic Markers: Drafts of the signs for the Church Street Bridge and the Gale General Store were passed out. There is only one picture of the old bridge therefore that one will be used. CPA funds, which the committee has applied for, will be voted on at the April Town Meeting. If passed, funds become available in July. The attendees submitted edits of the drafts. Alexandra Molnar will present a combined and edited draft at the next meeting.

The Grange: The committee agreed that a letter will be sent to the new owners of the Grange offering any assistance that the committee could offer to help with providing information about the building. Zenya Molnar agreed to add to/edit the letter under consideration for review at the February meeting.

Protecting Historic Properties: The chairman would like to generate a list of the 10 most prestigious historic properties in Northborough. This list will be used by the committee to send a letter to the owners offering help or assistance for long-term historic preservation of the property. This would be modeled after the Conservation Commission's letters to owners of who may wish to preserve their land.

There was discussion about possible properties to include on the list: the Manning/ Holloway House on Church St, the Farwell house on Hudson St, the Grange, White Cliffs, and the Allen Homestead, were mentioned along with several others. It was finally decided that Norm would send the antique property inventory for Northborough to committee members for review at upcoming meetings.

Historic District Commission appreciation letter: The Gale General store was suggested.

New Business:

- It was agreed by the committee to join the Massachusetts History Alliance. There is no charge for joining this organization and they host a conference each year that may benefit the commission.
- The list of names and contact information of the members was reviewed.
- Norm will interview Lisa Masselli for a position as alternate on the commission.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05.

Respectfully submitted,
Julianne Hirsh