

Northborough Historic District Commission
Meeting Minutes for January 15, 2020

Present: Zenya Molnar, Norm Corbin, Brian Smith, Mike Duchesneau, Brian Swanson, Julianne Hirsh, Millie Milton

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:07pm.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Mike made motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 18, 2019 with edits, Zenya seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Brian made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 20, 2019 with edits. Mike seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Historic Bronze Markers:

- No update on two that have been ordered.
- MWRA said location is perfect for Native American Trail sign, and they would like to install it. Norm will hold off on ordering until confirmed with TA Realty who is paying for the sign.

Cemetery Interpretive Sign: No update.

CPA Funding Requests:

- The CPC Committee requested we look into the use of CPA funding for National Register Projects.
 - o 52 cases were identified where CPA money was used for national registration nominations
 - o 11 cases are specific to cemeteries.
 - o Norm will create a timeline showing our previous attempts to fund this project
 - o They also requested justification for the \$8000 funding request
- Civil War Monument:
 - o Three estimates received ranging from \$2500 to \$20,000. Norm proposed to not seek CPA funding until we better understand pricing.
 - o Look for local funding instead and then seek out a new quote for the monument.
 - o SHRAB funding support is an option as it focuses on veteran-specific restoration.

NHDC representation on town committees updates:

- White Cliffs committee:
 - o Eric Bush spoke to the committee about reuse and posed three options: municipal building, event space, and residential. Initial financials show that residential and municipal use may be a challenge. Using as event space will be further discussed at the next meeting.

- There is now a new roof on the historic sections of the building.
- Decision to add to historic district (to allow access to additional funding) is on hold. The Town does need to add a preservation restriction since the building was bought with CPA funding.

Letters of Appreciation: Bruce is working on letters. Alex has volunteered to write some.

Meeting with local historic districts and historical commissions: Bruce is spearheading. No update.

Community Advocate Newspaper articles: Alex wrote an article for the new Unitarian Church historic marker. Norm is writing an article about 156 Pleasant Street.

Northgate Neighborhood: Julianne will speak with Mr. Jerry Bourque, who lives in the neighborhood to learn more about the history. Susie Ciezlica will post a note on Facebook to request information.

Route 20 Historic Highway Signage: Signs are now up in town.

2020 Town Meeting Warrants: The NHDC will not have any warrants on the 2020 Town Meeting

New Business

MACRIS database: contains information on demolished buildings. According to database, there was an attempt to create a historic district in the center of town in the 1970s.

Website Status: should be updated; MACRIS database was uploaded.

2019 Annual Report: Norm and Leslie wrote and submitted

Town Training: Everyone must take the Open Meeting Law training. If you can't attend meeting in person, you can watch the video online.

Other: Mike shared story of mastodon archeological site discovered in 1880s. Norm shared that a Greek organization owned White Cliffs for a few years at one point in the 1940s.

Next meeting date: February 19, 2020.

Adjournment

Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:19pm. Brian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Zenya Molnar
Secretary