

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

April 27, 2023 1:30 (zoom)

Minutes

**Attendance:** Jacque, Graveline, Bond, Campbell, Stoia, King.

**Call to Order:** 1:33 p.m. No citizen input.

**Minutes, 9/27/22:** Graveline moved and Bond seconded that these minutes be approved. **Bond AYE, Graveline AYE, Stoia AYE, Campbell AYE, Jacque AYE, King AYE,** passed unanimously.

**Minutes, 4/10/23:** Graveline moved, Bond seconded that these minutes be approved. **Bond AYE, Graveline AYE, Stoia AYE, Campbell AYE, Jacque AYE, King AYE,** passed unanimously.

**Mill Brook Site:** Stoia mentioned the Millbrook Conservation Area Report prepared for Northfield by Legacy Partners (in the early 2000's?), questioning if its details and conclusions had been included in the location planning for the emergency services building. Discussion about why federal funds were not sought to ease the taxpayer's burdens also came up. Also discussed were the things that trigger a PNF. The long-held desire for a town bylaw giving the Historical Commission a say in decisions of land use, conservation and development also arose, with Stoia pointing out that we can be trained and prepared as NHC members but it will not help the town if we are not brought into important conversations in a timely fashion. With an EMS building still to be planned, what should the NHC be doing? Stoia suggested we revisit the charge to the NHC. Jacque said that teamwork among all boards will be required to get important jobs done. She suggested we clarify our priorities as the NHC. We should identify the training that individuals need and seek to get that training. We also need to share the knowledge and responsibilities that a few NHC members have, to take some burdens off certain people and broaden our understanding of shared information. The list of priorities will inform the agendas of upcoming meetings.

**Calvin Swan site:** Jacque, King, Mayshark-Stavely, Joanne McGee, Julia Blyth and Tony Stavely walked the trail to the Calvin Swan homestead with Eric Johnson, retired from the dept. of archaeology, UMASS. He could not identify with certainty

what types of buildings the two cellar holes underpinned. Two appropriate areas for the Swan interpretive sign were identified. The interpretive sign and its frame, 2 'no dig' signs, and the setting of the large sign in the ground will cost more than the 350th anniversary funding allotted for the project. **Bond moved and Graveline seconded** that up to \$500 be expended of NHC funds if needed to frame and install the interpretive sign at the Swan site and to put up no-dig signs at Swan and King Philip's Hill locations. **Bond AYE, Graveline AYE, Stoia AYE, Campbell AYE, Jacque AYE, King AYE**, passed unanimously.

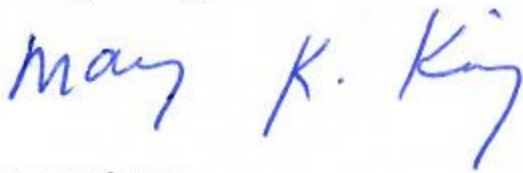
**Review of proposed agenda topics:** next steps on Calvin Swan homestead and cemetery site; revisit bylaw for NHC; historical commission training opportunities.

Next meeting: Thursday May 25, 1:30.

Adjourned at 3:28, **Motion:** Stoia, **second:** Bond; King AYE, Stoia AYE, Graveline Aye, Jacque Aye, Bond AYE, Campbell AYE, passed unanimously.

Respectfully,

Mary King



Secretary