

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

8/24/23 1:30 (zoom)

Minutes

Attendance: Jacque, Mayshark-Stavely, Bond, Campbell, King.

Call to Order: 1:35 p.m. No citizen input.

Minutes, 6/22/23: Bond moved, Campbell seconded that minutes be approved. Unanimous, **Bond AYE, Mayshark AYE, Campbell AYE, Jacque AYE, King AYE.**

Calvin Swan event, 8/26 (Brush Mt.): Joanne McGee will talk about the research by Betty Congdon that led to the conservation of the site where Swan and his family lived and may have had a sawmill. King will talk about the collaboration among town committees, namely the Open Space Committee, the 350th Anniversary Committee and the NHC, that has brought about the installation of the Calvin Swan interpretive sign during Northfield's 350th year since first settlement. Matt DiLuzio of the OSC will lead a hike up Brush Mt. The library is taking hike registrations for this, the last of 3 hikes in the History Outdoors series. Jacque explained that the money to pay for the sign's framing and installation by local woodworker Ryan Anastos included NHC funding encumbered in 2023 for use in 2024.

WWII Killed in Action (KIA) sign research: Jacque has helped identify the locations of the homes of seven Northfield men killed in action in WWII. The plan is to continue to place street signs with this information at intersections near their homes. The most recent accomplishment is identifying the home of Ralph Reed who lived at 95/97 Main St. He was a library associate at Colby College in a photograph discovered of him. He was killed in action one year later. Bond mentioned that the great granddaughter of **Charles L. Preston**, who is honored with a plaque in Town Hall for his **efforts undercover in 1918 to obtain platinum for the war effort**, will be in town to see the plaque on Saturday Sept. 2.

Public comment on historical trails: a Northfield citizen, Nohham Cachat, asked of Joe Graveline whether there are programs allowing designation of historic trails. Discussion should wait until Graveline is present. King said that there are African American Heritage trails and sites, which might be appropriate for the Calvin Swan site. Campbell mentioned another possibility for a Black heritage site is where

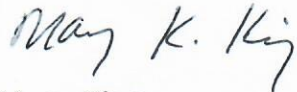
Abijah Prince lived as a slave, if we can confidently identify the location of Northfield's first minister Benjamin Doolittle's farm.

Discussion of proposed agenda topics: next meeting will be in person at town hall with the possibility of reviewing sensitivity maps and/or historical documents. No meeting in September because of involvement in the 350th Parade and Fireworks day.

Next meeting: Thursday October 26, 1:30, in person at Town Hall.

Adjourned at 2:06, **Motion to adjourn by** Campbell, **seconded by** Bond. Passed unanimously King AYE, Mayshark AYE, Jacque AYE, Bond AYE, Campbell AYE.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. King".

Mary King

Secretary