

**Northfield Historical Commission
69 Main Street
Northfield Massachusetts
Minutes February 23, 2017**

Present: Joe Graveline, Robert Hall, Carol Lebo, Lisa McLoughlin, Joan Stoia, Sue Ross
Guest: Don Campbell

Called to order at 7:03 By Carol

Minutes of January 12, 2017 meeting: Motion to accept: Joe: Lis Second: Discussion: minor changes of spelling, Passes unanimously.

2016 Annual Report due 3/1/17; reviewed a draft from Carol and gave feedback with approval.

MHC grant proposal: they suggested a town wide archaeological assessment. Carol wrote back and said we would like to do that and could we get more information a face- to-face meeting sometime after March.

NHC budget request: Carol sent in our budget request. She approached the finance committee who were very complementary about our work but indicated they would not fund the kinds of requests we were seeking, specifically they don't do computers because they require maintenance and updating, and suggested we go to the CPA.

MHC/Paul Mark results: We thanked MHC for the list and maps and asked for the reports. No response from MHC to date.

CPC report: Carol went as our liaison and found out that because the CPC wasn't a full committee at the time the call for submissions went out, they couldn't put out a call. As a result we never learned there was an opportunity to apply and missed it. There is over 100K in their budget, which could be leveraged for another grant, e.g. an MHC grant.

Alderbrook Trail Signage: progressing with NHC involvement from Sue and Carol. They suggested we look over the drafts of the signs as a committee. Discussion of possible pamphlet or website.

Membership needs: Don Campbell is still negotiating paperwork with the town to join the NHC to fill a slot on our commission.

HB 698 aka 744: letter went out to State Representative Peter Kocot. We officially asked, as a Historical Commission, to have a place on the new commission described in the creation of the new House Bill that will replace old House Bill 698, House Docket, No. 3575. Filed on 1/20/2017. The new House Bill No. is yet to be assigned to this new offering.

Annual Town Warrant requests due 2/27/17. We will need to wait until next year to submit our by-law. Discussion of challenges with this deadline.

Community Archaeology: moving forward from policy. The last Town by-law that was submitted in 2013 failed. There is a new version, which we will all look over and bring written comments to the April meeting. The Town Attorney can put our Archaeological Accountability By-Law for submission next year into legal ease once we have a clear understanding what we want. Discussion of building support over the next year via newsletter for the possibility of a visitor center somewhere downtown, a place for gatherings and Northfield history display. Note that if there is state/federal money involved that will trigger MHC involvement with at least a desk audit for cultural historical resources as part of the project development and execution, as well as NHC involvement with our Archaeological Accountability Policy.

NATABA: is sending a packet of information to the new school on the old Northfield Mount Hermon campus, which will include our archaeology accountability policy and some historical society material.

2016-2017 Planning and Tasks: Carol is working on a draft of community archaeology by-law, which we will review in April. Day of history, Lisa liaising with the Elnu Abanaki Tribe, Joe will contact farmer about haying schedule to discuss possibility of dates for 18 century historical re-enactment day without formal presentations. Put on website vendors? Field reports requested from MHC Carol will do follow up with MHC. Northfield Cemetery, after March Sue will research bench for Marie Ferre. Friends of Northfield Cemetery and neighborhood improvement societies might have money for project. Will need to get permission to place bench somewhere there for Marie.

Motion: Bob: name the main road in the Center Cemetery after Marie Ferre, second Joe. Discussion: bench idea is more popular. Vote all opposed. Motion: Bob: put a memorial bench for Marie Ferre at the Center Cemetery pending proper approvals. Second Sue: Discussion: we could raise money without it costing the town; process of getting space at the cemetery, check with Tom. Need to know process. Vote: passes unanimously.

Additional items brought forth: Discussion that Historical Commissions under MGL Chapter 40 Section 8D can own property, e.g. 24 Main Street parcel.

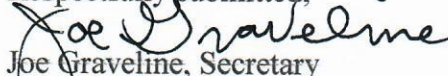
Sue followed up with the state on the metal historical markers that are in rough shape. The state will not take care of them. The money the town voted is only for the stone monuments. Sue will talk to the town about taking care of the metal ones.

Looking at the town website Carol noticed most of our minutes were not posted, so she reprinted them all to hand to the town clerk for posting. The Zoning Committee will be visiting in April.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. Carol will be gone, so next month's meeting is coordinated by and presided over by Sue. We will look over our archives.

Motion to adjourn 9:25 p.m. by Carol, Joe; Second: Joan Discussion: none Vote passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,


Joe Graveline, Secretary

3/9/17