

Northfield Historical Commission
Northfield Massachusetts
ZOOM, August 11, 2020, 1:00 pm
MINUTES



Call to order by Bee Jacque, 1:04 pm

Present: Bee Jacque, Lis McLoughlin, Joe Graveline, Joan Stoia, Stacy Bond, Don Campbell, Mary King and guest Mary Mayshark-Stavely

Citizen input: none

Minutes: June 8, 2020 accepted unanimously, **M**: MaryK **S**: Joe

June 24, 2020 accepted unanimously with corrections, **M**: Stacy **S**: Joan

Discussion of what should be included in minutes took place. It is agreed that minutes should capture the end results of discussions, a sense of the discussion without including every detail. Minutes should always indicate where the discussion of the agenda item ended up.

Mail and Announcements: Joe announced that he received many write-in votes for the Planning Board seat, and if the Selectboard okays it he will serve on PB until the spring election.

Unanticipated Business: Town Administrator passed along a Freedom of Information Act request to NHC for minutes and any corresponding documents from our Oct. 29, 2019 meeting. As indicated in the minutes, we had referred a citizen to the Planning Board who had attended our October meeting and sought information on the role of NHC in the proposed Campground near the Moody Center. Bee stated that she will check the PB minutes for that time period to see if they reflect that Joe, at a PB public meeting on the proposed campground, had offered to show the PB the Sensitivity Map for that area in executive session. The PB expressed interest but did not follow through.

Committee & Project Updates

2021 Authors & Artists Festival: Lis and the A&A planning committee seek sponsorships for the 2021 festival, Honoring the Environment, taking place online February 27 and 28. The speaker that NHC sponsored this year (Gretchen Holbrook Gerzina) is the third most viewed on Youtube for the 2020 event. Several great speakers are lined up for 2021 and negotiations for others continue (details are at authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com).

NHC unanimously passed a motion to support a sponsorship with \$500 for the 2021 Authors & Artists Festival, **M**: Bee **S**: Joe. Lis recused herself. The decision as to which speaker the NHC will sponsor will be made later in the planning process.

2023 Northfield 350th Anniversary Celebration: no activity reported by Stacy or MaryK

Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee: Joe reported that the committee is waiting to hear that the grant renewal has been approved. The next funding round will include research and perhaps archaeological study on the Council Fires. The NHC has had a seat on the Battlefield Grant Advisory Committee since its beginning 7 years ago.

Community Preservation Committee: MaryK said that two projects that had sought CPC funding under the historical category of the Community Preservation Act were granted that funding at the recent town meeting, and work is now being done. That funding includes a grant for repair of the First Parish (Unitarian) Meeting House steeple, which holds the Town Clock, and repair of the well and the trail going past the Calvin Swan Homestead.

Schell Bridge: Bee reports that the wait for MassDOT to schedule the hearing for 25% design continues. No news to report on the Right of Way work or estimates.

Stewardship Advisory Committee: regarding the Calvin Swan Homestead, Lis stated that if the Stewardship Committee does any archaeological work the NHC should be involved. Grants can be sought that pay for an archaeologist overseeing students as long as the project is educational in purpose. Joe said that our commission's purview is to oversee archaeological and historical resources in Northfield. MaryM mentioned the importance of Swan Homestead signage, and Joan emphasized the vital need for NHC to be on the punch list of commissions and boards that must be consulted at the start of any project seeking permitting that could affect historically sensitive resources in Northfield. Lis added that NHC should be consulted first. Bee will talk to JoAnne McGee and a member of the Stewardship Committee about the Swan property.

Continuing NHC Business

2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant: the article directing the select board to contact FERC about First Light's contract renewal and stipulations that protect town farmers, landowners, and resources near the river passed unanimously. NHC, specifically Bee and Joe, will write a letter from the perspective of the citizens of Northfield that guides the Selectboard in executing the wishes of the town. Bee will get this on the Selectboard agenda. Time is of the essence.

Dam relicensing, Sensitivity map: Joe has been working on the mapping since our last meeting, specifically on colonial sites and colonial-indigenous exchanges. He is using information from **Puritan Outpost**, a book owned by the library. Don, Joan and MaryM offered to help Joe. Lis can help map with her ESRI account.

New Business

Confirm NHC leadership and membership going forward: new officers are Bee Jacque, chair; Joe Graveline, Vice Chair; Mary King, Secretary. **M:** Don **S:** Stacy. Members are Stacy Bond, Don Campbell, Lisa McLoughlin, Joan Stoia; and Mary Mayshark-Stavely as alternate pending Selectboard approval. Discussion occurred about the eventual need for a Fundraising Chair.

Discussion of Chair Emerita: tabled.

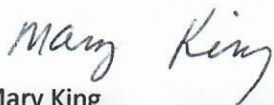
Potential initiatives and Commissioner interests: some initiatives are listed on the town webpage. Bee requests that we each send our interests and ideas to the group email for discussion next meeting. Joan suggested that this item top the agenda.

Onboarding of new members: MaryM was given details on how to submit an application for NHC membership.

Next meeting: Tuesday Sept. 1, 1:00, ZOOM

Adjournment: at 2:45, **M:** Joe **S:** Don

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mary King

NHC Secretary