

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield Massachusetts, Sept. 29 2020, ZOOM

Minutes

Call to order: Bee Jacque 1:03 pm

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

Citizen input: none

Minutes: Sept. 1, 2020 accepted unanimously, **M:** Campbell **S:** Graveline.

Mail: NHC received notice that the Northfield Seminary for Young Ladies Historic District application/nomination prepared on behalf of Moody Center and Clockwork Architecture by Preservation Consultant Bonnie Parsons has been received by the Secretary of State. Graveline clarified that historic districts, of which Northfield Main Street is one, have clear boundaries so it is not unusual that the campus is applying to be an historic district.

Announcements

NHC has an annual budget of \$1000 not \$500. McLoughlin said this might be \$500 for maintenance of the town's monuments, to be paid to the Highway Department. **ACTION:** Jacque will find out.

Brief budget discussion pointed out the need for a research and reference collection of books about Northfield. **ACTION:** identify and list the books that are important to the work of the NHC.

Graveline said that Bud (David) Driver, Deerfield Historical Commission, has asked for a letter of acknowledgment and support from NHC as he departs Deerfield in a move to Northampton. Driver has worked with several NHC members on historical projects, and helped Northfield draft an Archaeology Accountability Policy that asks archaeologists working on town land to register with the Historical Commission first, to make it easier for local landowners and the Commission to receive site reports from any digs. A **motion** to write a letter supporting David Driver for his efforts to get an Archaeology Accountability Policy developed in Northfield as well as for his historical understanding and sharing of historical maps passed unanimously. **M:** McLoughlin **S:** Mayshark-Stavely **ACTION:** Jacque and Graveline will draft the letter.

Unanticipated business: none

NHC initiatives

Priorities and next steps: NHC identified several worthy initiatives at the last meeting. Time and energy available to Commission members necessitates NHC prioritize and organize. Jacque suggested dividing priorities into two tracks. One track contains initiatives that require funds to get going:

1. Esri: \$100 a year for individuals and perhaps free for towns. **ACTION:** McLoughlin will send info to Jacque, who will work with Andrea Llamas to get a free town license.
2. Center Cemetery repair: MA Historical Commission (MHC) grant requires a 50% town match. Community Preservation Account (CPA) money could be applied for, to make up some of this

match. NHC received a \$40,000 bid for this project several years ago. MHC does not allow the bidder to also do the project work.

3. Calvin Swan Homestead: Joanne McGee of the Stewardship Committee reported to Jacque that all work funded by the town CPA grant has been completed. McGee supports McLoughlin's idea to interpret what the sites and previous buildings might have been. We discussed who would be needed: McLoughlin said an indigenous archaeologist is needed to identify all historic artifacts not just those that more traditional conservation resource management firms might be interested in. Graveline said the National Park Service Battlefield Grant archaeologists are great, that Kevin McBride of UCONN has a very good crew. ACTION: Jacque will let the Town Administrator (Andrea Llamas) know about this possible effort.

Scope of work and objectives for a Swan project need definition. NHC agreed coordination with the Stewardship Committee is necessary. ACTION: Jacque and Graveline will work together to further develop ideas and project costs to present to the FinCom in early winter.

The second track contains ongoing priorities that require NHC attention, effort and monitoring but not necessarily funds: FERC and First Light's relicensing, sensitivity mapping, and the NHC being part of the Town's project check-off list.

Chair Emerita ideas: Talk to Paul Mark's aide about a proclamation. Purchase the Temple-Sheldon book for Carol. Initiate a Town Meeting acknowledgment of some kind. Ask Zack DeLuca of the Recorder to cover one or more of these honors.

Committee & Project Updates

2021 Artists and Authors Festival: McLoughlin reported that planning for the February online event is moving forward. ACTION: Jacque will submit a Town expense form for payment of the Keynote Speaker stipend from the NHC account soon.

2023 Northfield 350th Anniversary: no activity

Community Preservation Committee: the CPC meets on October 1 to begin this year's grant round.

Schell Bridge: The comment period for MassDOT's prerecorded webinar on the 25% design public hearing ends October 1. Jacque edited the Selectboard letter of support to expand the historical references and sent individual comments, including the need for the park's interpretative panel to expand beyond relatively recent history to colonial and Pre-Contact periods.

Stewardship Advisory Committee: nothing to report beyond the Swan Homestead information stated under Initiatives.

ACTIONS: McLoughlin to share documents on Center Cemetery, FERC and the history of Northfield Mt. Pumped Storage, and National Historic Districts.

Schedule next meeting: Oct. 27 2020, 1:00, Zoom ACTION: Jacque, agenda to include discussion of a local historical event or topic.

Adjournment: 2:45 pm. M: Graveline S: McLoughlin

Respectfully,

Mary K. King