

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

February 15, 2021 2:00 (zoom)

Minutes

**Attendance:** Jacque, McLoughlin, Graveline, Bond, Stoia, Campbell, Mayshark-Stavelly, King. Guest: Rich Holschuh.

**Call to Order:** 2:03 p.m.

**Citizen input:** none.

**Minutes, 1/28/2021:** Motion to accept by Campbell, seconded by Graveline, passed unanimously.

**Committee, Project updates:**

- Community Preservation Committee will hold a meeting on 2/18 at which the First Parish application for CPA funds in the historical resources' category will be discussed with church representatives. ACTION: put hyperlinks on the NHC page of the town website for ease of contact by townspeople.
- Original Voices & NPR grant: a draft plan for Voices will be shared soon, Mayshark-Stavelly reported.
- 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee has a treasurer and a Facebook page now, Bond reported. The most recent meeting stirred up conversation and concerns about how to plan a commemoration that will do justice to the accomplishments and the memories of Northfield residents while it acknowledges the "whole lot of pain" and loss that colonial settlement caused to Indigenous people. Suggestions included looking for ideas in the template created by Historic Deerfield for the 1704 Raid on Deerfield commemoration in 2004, a reconciliation ceremony at Alderbrook which is part of the Council Fires land if this can be agreed upon, and other educational programs throughout 2023 with the understanding of cultural interactions and differences as a goal. Holschuh said that use of terms like 'Indian' and 'bury the hatchet' vary in acceptability from Tribal Nation to Tribal Nation as there are specific protocols by culture. We can't assume, we need to be in conversation with those who are immediately involved, and honor the Sovereign nation's status. Holschuh will attend the next 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary meeting to guide the committee.
- Authors & Artists Festival: McLoughlin said that a very generous Northfield Cultural Council grant was received, and that a recent Recorder article brought about many registrations. Rich Holschuh will lead off the festival and Sherri Mitchell, the keynote, will follow.
- Open Space Planning and "nutshell history" document: Jacque reported that the final draft of the Open Space Plan is accepting suggestions and comments.
- Firstlight & FERC: Jacque attended a meeting with FRCOG (Franklin County Council of Governments) and learned that a net will be installed at the tailwaters of the river where fish and water are sucked up, to keep the fish from harm. The dock at Riverside Park will consequently need to be moved. FRCOG has a Land Use Manager, Kimberly McPhee, who said a budget line of \$10,000 funds FRCOG'S Connecticut River and Firstlight monitoring. Jacque asks



that anyone willing to receive FERC notices please let her know, she could use help keeping up with these.

Bond left the meeting at 3:00. Stoia joined the meeting at 3:23.

**Proposals of Interest:**

- Solar Farm: after much discussion, **Campbell moved** that Jacque continue editing a document in substantive form for the Planning Board regarding a solar farm seeking 3 permits to build along Pine Meadow Road in Northfield, to be submitted prior to the Planning Board hearing on February 18, 2021. **Seconded by Mayshark-Stavelly, passed with one abstention (Joe Graveline)**. The discussion preceding the acceptance of the motion concerned: the highly complicated solar project which would have large consequences for agricultural land in Northfield and in Massachusetts; MHC's inadequate and incomplete review of the town's cultural and historic resources, including MACRIS information; the inattention given to the independent consultant's finding of a lack of archaeological assessment; concerns that the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers have not been called in; and the seeming avoidance by project proponents of anything that will raise section 106 of the NHPA, which requires consultation with Tribal Nations. The document to be submitted expresses the opinions of the NHC, and individual members of the commission may address the PB members independently at the hearing.
- Crosswalks on Main Street: The Select Board has sent a letter of support to MASS DOT.

**Schell Bridge**: Holschuh, a member of the Elnu Abenaki with consulting status, has heard nothing new regarding the project. Since the preliminary opinion of the state archaeologist is that historical and cultural resources no longer exist because of the disturbed bridge environment, NHC directed chairperson Jacque to draft a letter to MASS DOT expressing the NHC's concerns about the cultural and historic resources which may be present in the undisturbed park and parking areas that are proposed surrounding the replacement bridge. **M**: Campbell **S**: Mayshark-Stavelly passed unanimously.

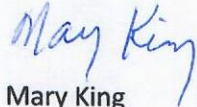
**FINCOM budget process**: inquiry by Jacque about how long members have been on the NHC was related to a FINCOM need to know the turnover rate of members because of the NHC request to FINCOM for a budget to buy inexpensive Google editions of out-of-print Northfield histories.

**Announcements, Unanticipated Business**: none

**Next meeting**: to be decided, Jacque will notify.

**Adjourned**: passed unanimously at 4:30 p.m., **M**: Campbell **S**: Graveline

Respectfully,



Mary King

Secretary