

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

May 27, 2021 2:00 (zoom)

Minutes

**Attendance:** Jacque, McLoughlin, Graveline, Stoia, Campbell, King. Absent: Bond, Mayshark-Stavely.  
**Guests:** Rich Holschuh, Elnu Abenaki Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (3:08 until 3:28 p.m.)

**Call to Order:** 2:00 p.m.

**Citizen input:** none.

**Minutes, 4/22/2021:** Motion to accept by Campbell, seconded by McLoughlin, passed unanimously.

**Authors & Artists:** Discussion of the headline speakers for the 2/2022 festival took place. **Motion** by Graveline, seconded by Campbell that Dina Gilio-Whitaker (*As Long as Grass Grows*) be sponsored by NHC. Passed unanimously with one abstention (McLoughlin). Discussion took place concerning a souvenir poster; McLoughlin is looking into Printful for on-demand printing, warehousing and shipping. McLoughlin mentioned that 2022 A&A will offer a poetry retreat for the first time. A&A is seeking financial self-sufficiency. Agreement: kudos to McLoughlin for excellence in zoom programming!

**Solar Farm project:** Subcommittee made up of Graveline, Campbell and Jacque is working with Holschuh on drafting conditions relative to the solar farm. Planning Board meeting to set conditions has not been scheduled yet. Jacque will coordinate a meeting for the subcommittee and expression of NHC conditions to the PB. Consultant for the town mentioned that Atowi, the Historical Commission and Planning Board/town staff all have roles in this important step.

**Schell Bridge:** a meeting took place at Pauchaug among Jacque, Graveline, McLoughlin and Holschuh with principal members of MassDot cultural resources staff and others regarding the lack of outreach and consultation with Elnu Abenaki as required by Sec 106. A "hand-off problem" between MassDot and Public Archaeology Lab was mentioned as part of the problem. Holschuh made it clear that the meeting occurring right then was not to be considered a consultation with the Elnu Abenaki. Graveline expressed that in the Pauchaug area soil disruption is going to occur that has not been clearly defined, and soil disturbance requires more archaeological testing. Graveline also called the NHC's attention to the Northampton Historical Commission's decision to support the ultimately successful Native efforts to stop highway construction which threatened an ancient site.

Schell Bridge Advisory Committee meets the Select Board on June 2 to report on progress and process for recommendations on the bridge/greenway name, historical panel, and color of the bridge. Dept. of Conservation and Resources owns the bridge but will take advice on naming it. Stoia stated that a hyphenated name acknowledging the Abenaki and Mr. Schell would work for both the long history and more recent history of the location. McLoughlin noted that the town was agreeing to the destruction of the Schell bridge and that the new bridge should have a new name. Names suggesting a crossing, gathering place, at a shallow place, were discussed. Abenaki words Pauchaug and Squakheag as part of a hyphenated name met some approval. **ACTION:** get your suggestions to Jacque by noon Tuesday June 1.

Rich Holschuh joined the meeting at 3:08. Holschuh stated that in naming the bridge and the project it is important that all the stories be acknowledged, not just one or another.

Campbell and Holschuh left the meeting at 3:28.

**Original Voices Project:** Stoia expressed concern that the pared down project was doable but called on the Abenaki to do too much. McLoughlin said that we should keep them, via Holschuh, in the loop but not expect them to do more than they wished to. The Abenaki Arts Association will likely be willing to help NHC publicize this opportunity, we go to bid, and the chosen Abenaki artist earns a fee for their work. Action: let Stoia know if you have other thoughts about this. Stoia will contact Jacque with her rewording then contact Holschuh.

**350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** King reported that a 350<sup>th</sup> logo has been chosen, that the subcommittees are being populated slowly, and that the 350<sup>th</sup> treasurer is drafting a form for people with ideas to fill out to get their ideas concretely and assure their commitment to helping further those ideas for 2023. NHC wants to know the 350<sup>th</sup> website address as soon as it is up. King said that the 350<sup>th</sup> has a Facebook page, Northfield MA 350<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2023 and the logo is there.

Crosswalks on Main Street: following discussion about the safety needs for walkers, an historic village center, traffic calming possibilities, the harm of lighting the night including drivers' difficulty with vision adjusting from light to dark environments, a MOTION was made by Stoia, seconded by King: The NHC supports the crosswalk improvements on Main St. as long as efforts are made to be consistent with an historic village center, using moderate lighting and coloration. Passed, 4 Yes (Stoia, Jacque, Graveline, King) 1 No (McLoughlin).

**Announcements, Unanticipated Business, Mail:** none.

**Next meeting:** Thursday June 24, 1:00 ZOOM (note time change).

**Adjourned:** passed unanimously at 4:00 p.m., M: Stoia S: Graveline

Respectfully,



Mary King

Secretary