

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

August 3, 2021 1:00 (in-person with zoom option)

Minutes

Attendance: Jacque, McLoughlin, Graveline, Stoia, King, Bond, Mayshark-Stavely. Not present: Campbell.

Call to Order: 1:11 p.m.

Citizen input: none.

Minutes, 6-24-21: Motion to accept by Mayshark-Stavely, seconded by Graveline, passed unanimously.

Solar Farm project: Conditions set by the Planning Board were reviewed. Among them: that Atowi (Rich Holschuh) and an archaeologist will be hired by the developer. Any documents from the MHC or the archaeologist shall be submitted to the Planning Board, and the developer will make sure that the Northfield Archaeology Accountability Policy will be followed. Graveline pointed out that MHC had replied in the negative to a notice of intent question that asked if "historic structures" were present on the land, which of course does not cover cultural resources. McLoughlin noted that the developer may take that incomplete reply as a go-ahead. NHC will assist MHC with information and analog documents that MHC may not and certainly should have. The important documents are:

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1. Prehistoric Cultural Resources in Northfield, a Preservation Handbook (Dincauze)
 2. Archaeological Properties Survey of Pauchaug Boat Landing (Dincauze, 1977)
 3. An erosion mitigation project document
 4. A report on the building of the Northfield Mountain project
 5. Report from the Ceremonial Stone Landscape district (airport expansion, Montague)
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Question: Is there an accessible report of recent FERC archaeological findings?

MOTION by Stoia, seconded by Bond: NHC chair and vice-chair shall send a letter to MHC to remind them of the importance of the cultural resources previously documented in the Pine Meadow area. Passed unanimously. **Actions:** copies of Dincauze's Preservation Handbook will be made for NHC members and everyone will read it before the next meeting please. Make sure Holschuh has the relevant documents.

McLoughlin left the meeting at 1:25.

Pauchaug-Schell Bridge: no report.

350th Anniversary: Stoia heads up the 350th Marketing Focus group and described the “thread of events and publicity” that can be initiated by a single major sponsorship, from the event itself, to a Northfield History Minute on WRSI which is a promotion for the event sponsor, to a banner with historical info plus promotion, to the opportunities to say “by the way, don’t miss” an upcoming commemorative 350 event. The Marketing Focus group needs actions not ideas at this point...rather than suggest a History Minute person, write one up in 75 words and send to Stoia.

Mayshark-Stavelly left the meeting at 2:00, Stoia left at 2:05.

Bond said for the full 350th committee things are moving slowly because of summer vacations, and getting the webpage up and running is a chief goal. The History Focus group has met once with its 6 members, has lots of ideas and much to organize.

Next steps for NHC re: FERC relicensing FirstLight: Jacque is concerned that NHC be active and initiate responses to FirstLight on Connecticut River issues. Organizationally we need to figure out how to keep up with what is occurring and know when we should jump in as a commission.

Action: King will contact Connecticut River Conservancy about their alert system, and find out if Andrea Donlon might provide an overview of the situation, critical junctures, and what our role should be in the relicensing, with the hope of including the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Committee.

Moody Center letter of support update request: **MOTION** by Graveline, seconded by King that Jacque update and submit the letter of support needed for the second round of tax credits for historic renovations of Revell and Holton Halls on the Moody Center campus. Passed unanimously by Jacque, Graveline, Bond, King.

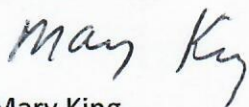
Annual election of officers: tabled until September meeting.

Announcements, Unanticipated Business, Mail: Graveline reported that a resident along route 63 observed people working from a parked car using metal detectors on private property. Graveline will pass the information along to the town police department. Graveline also said that a MA House bill, No. 3982, was filed in June “*relative to protecting the archaeological, geological, and fossil resources of Massachusetts*”. This bill has been in the making for 13 years, beginning under the late Rep. Peter Kocot. **Action:** look at House Docket 4255 for more information before next NHC meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday Sept. 23, 2021, 1:00 (ZOOM only)

Adjourned: passed unanimously at 3:04p.m., **M:** Graveline **S:** Bond

Respectfully,



Mary King
