

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

April 10, 2023 1:30 (zoom)

Minutes

Attendance: Jacque, McLoughlin, Graveline, Bond, Campbell, Stoia, Mayshark-Stavely (alternate), King. **Guests:** Fire Chief Skip Dunnell, consultant John MacMillan, project manager Anthony DiLuzio.

Call to Order: 1:42 p.m. No citizen input.

Review of proposed Public Safety Complex: MacMillan showed plans and spoke about the proposed building. Questions from the NHC included whether the construction of such a large building with bunks for firefighters indicates a plan for a full-time firefighting force, to which McMillan answered no, though over the next decades that might be needed. Having a good facility helps the volunteerism that Northfield relies on; and Skip added that EMS staff do stay overnight sometimes now, on a couch in their facility. Plus, bunks give town workers a place to catch some winks during storms. The decontamination needed for both pathological and carcinogenic substances to some extent drives the size and complexity of the facility. When asked about PFAS, firefighting foam, Skip said that what is now used has a vegetable and fish base. On lighting: exterior light is designed with cut offs and though there will be reflected light, plans are for zero foot-candles. At the front of the building will be low lights for safety. In answer to a question about the southern abutter's property, there will be shrubbery between that house and the safety complex. The weight of solar panels on the roof is being planned around, but plans do not include solar currently. To a question about acreage of the project, 2.25 acres is the area of disturbance. Square footage of the building is 18,000, down from 25,000. Regarding the visibility for exiting trucks, it is 1100 feet at each exit in both directions. Graveline expressed the NHC's specific concerns about the construction of the facility on an area, Mill Brook, that has been cited in local histories as a place that was important to Sokoki life and to early colonial settlements and industries, which the MA Historical Commission will be interested in documenting. The NHC is asking for a project notification form (PNF) and correspondence with MHC to work out a plan for archaeological investigation if sampling so indicates. DiLuzio said that this does not fit the current project

timeline, and Graveline replied that these requirements do not fall in his lap, the MHC is responsible for studying colonial activity and that which preceded it. (Note: NOI, Notice of Intent, is a conservation term and PNF, Project Notification Form, is a historical term). **MOTION:** McLoughlin moved, Graveline seconded that Jacque and Graveline write a letter to MHC and transfer the body of historic research held by the NHC to the MHC relative to the Mill Brook area, in order to carry out the responsibilities of the NHC. Voting were McLoughlin AYE, Mayshark-Stavely AYE, Graveline AYE, Jacque AYE, King AYE, passed unanimously.

Calvin Swan site and signage: two signs, created with funds from the 350th Anniversary Committee by certain members of the Open Space Committee and the NHC, were reviewed. One, which will interpret the site of Calvin Swan's homestead on Brush Mt., was generally approved with small changes in wording and punctuation. The other sign states that disturbing stones and metal detecting are forbidden on town property and informs the reader of the Northfield Archaeology Accountability Policy. Small changes to this sign were recommended so it can also be used at other properties. **MOTION:** Graveline moved and Mayshark-Stavely seconded that the sign project go forward incorporating the changes discussed and with final approval, after revisions, of McLoughlin and Jacque. Passed unanimously, Jacque AYE, McLoughlin AYE, Graveline AYE, Mayshark-Stavely AYE, King AYE.

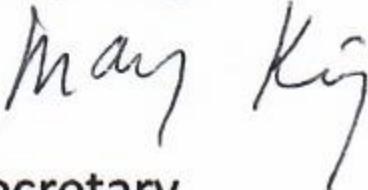
Minutes, 1/27/22: review of minutes for 1/22 and 10/21 postponed until next meeting.

Next meeting: Thursday April 27, 1:30 zoom.

Adjourned at 3:28, **Motion:** Graveline, **second:** McLoughlin AYE, King AYE, Graveline Aye, Jacque Aye, Mayshark-Stavely AYE, passed unanimously.

Respectfully,

Mary King


Secretary