

**Northfield Historical Commission
Town Hall; 69 Main Street
Northfield, MA 01360**

Minutes from January 12, 2017

Present: Carol Lebo, Lisa McLoughlin, Joe Graveline, and Sue Ross:

Absent: Robert Hall: Joan Stoia

Visitor: Don Campbell

Meeting opened at 4:05pm by Carol Lebo

Minutes of previous meeting reviewed- Motion to accept: Lis: Second Carol, vote unanimous

Mail: 11/1/16 Exercising Municipal Rights-Chapter 61, 61A, or 61B; 11/14/16 Memo: from Town Administrator Brian Noble Chapter 61 listings all properties in Northfield in chapter 61 and asking all town boards to be pro active and ID any properties they might be interested in. Review the list and return the results to Admin office. NHC discussed just how time consuming this task would be and suggested we might review them as they come up, there are 8 pages and over 200 listings. Suggested also we need to incorporate maps from the state. We would like to defer our response and look for a protocol to allow us more time, possibly a year, while we make arrangements for any properties that come up in the interim. Carol will talk to interim Town Administrator about this challenge.

11/10/16-Memo: F&2018 Budget/Capital; Items Requests completed 12/5/16: Carol turned in our budget. 12/6,12/7, &12/16/16 MHC mailings: round 23 of Massachusetts Project fund matching grants to support preservation sites listed on State Register of Historic Places, municipality or nonprofit. Dead line March 24, 2017. Sue suggests Elizabeth Rairigh is a good contact. Little support for a new grant application at this point. Award nomination? Little support for putting forward someone, considering posthumous award for Marie Ferre suggested. NHC will discuss at February meeting. Things left in mailbox: 3 reports will be put into our records.

Old Business:

MHC Paul Mark results: Carol got us some cultural sensitivity records/maps from MHC! Carol thanked Jonathan Patton for helping out in this request. We feel along with the maps we also need the archaeological reports to add archaeological historical detail to the maps. We would like to acquire the reports soon, hoping for the reports electronically if possible such as how Erving received them. We will follow protocol for their sensitivity protection of non-public records.

House Bill (HB698) letter to Representative Peter Kocot: Discussion and some wordsmithing of draft. Motion Lis: authorize Joe and Carol to make the changes we suggested without changing the intent and send letter to Rep Kocot with copies to rest of Western Mass reps. Second: Sue, Discussion Sue would like to see the changes first. Joe will need to check to see if it has been re-filed and under what new numbers and adjust letter accordingly. Vote: passes unanimously.

Community Archaeology, moving forward from Policy: no progress yet, maybe in February. Discussion of the archaeological accountability policy.

Alderbrook Trail Signage: Sue and Carol will attend the 1/21/17 meeting. NHC concerned with how this project has been handled, especially communication with NHC and the tribes. Important for landowner to have his son memorialized and recognized in this project. Narragansett rep Doug Harris concerned with new name.

Membership needs: Talked with Don Campbell about scheduling with his time if he is to be on commission, also about what we are up to as a Historical Commission.

MHC Grant Proposal: Carol turned grant application requesting \$10,000 for a study of sites in hills NMH. They turned us down again this time recommended a town wide archaeological survey: \$25,000-\$30,000 to retain a qualified cultural resource person. Will contact Ed Bell from MHC for more info.

New Business:

Northfield Center Cemetery: no progress

Certified Local Governments: need to go through an MHC representative; we don't want to start this process until we get the records.

2016-2017 Planning Task: talked to the Elnu—They are open to doing an enactment: Joe has a venue--- would have to suggest second week in June after first haying; Elnu could park/camp; second haying in August--- Joe will ask farmer dates of Haying and Lis will follow up with Elnu. Don suggests last of August is not good for getting kids to do events. Town insurance? Need to share with town in case we've overlooked something. Joe has done a day of history twice on his property. Also possible Elizabeth Perry from the Wampanoag Tribe Aquinna might be interested in doing something with wild edibles and selling crafts.

Additional Items Brought Forth: December special town meeting: proposal \$1,000 monument cleaning fund passed easily. Motion Joe: letter to state telling them of our historical tourism ambitions and work and would they spiff up the metal monuments.

Second: Lis Discussion: Who will write the letter? Sue. A copy to Paul Mark. Vote: passes unanimously.

ZBA: Joan Stoia reported that the Zoning Revision Committee requests a short (20 Minute) joint meeting with several members of the ZRC attending the April meeting of the NHC. NHC welcomes the ZBA.

Redemption Academy: from Don Campbell. They're interested in history. Discuss sometime in May at an event they're holding. They know where Merriman's Underground Railroad stop is. Maybe the historical commission and society could work together to help them to become grafted into the town's story/history.

Announcements

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 9, 2017 4:00 p.m.

Motion to adjourn: Joe; Second: Carol Discussion: none
Vote: passes unanimously. 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.



Joe Graveline, Secretary

February 9, 2017