

**Northfield Historical Commission  
Town Hall  
69 Main Street  
Northfield Ma 01360  
Minutes  
March 9, 2017 4:00pm**

**Present:** Joe Graveline, Robert Hall, Lisa McLoughlin, Joan Stoia, Sue Ross gathered at 4:00 Don Campbell arrived at (4:47) considered a guest, later in the meeting news of his appointment by SB is read.

**Absent:** Carol Lebo

**Call to order** at 4:05pm by Sue

**Minutes of February 2017 meeting:** Motion to accept with minor spelling changes: Joan, Second Joe Discussion: verification of visitor center discussion; on page 2 change NHC to MHC; spelling changes; vote: passes unanimously, Joe will make changes and send to Carol and sign at next meeting.

**Mail and announcements:**

Discussed Email request for NHC to look into possibility to find funding to replace arched windows in town hall. Steve Seredynski of town hall renovation committee. Joan will help Steve look for grant funding. Joe can help with finding manufactures and estimates.

Discussed Saturday April 8 State of the Town dinner along with town organizations to do a 2-5 minute presentation on what they do; location at Northfield Elementary School; held by PTO of Northfield elementary school. Doors open at 4:30, dinner 5-6pm, presentation at 6, reservations required. Does NHC want to be represented? Good opportunity to win hearts and minds. Joe will look at his calendar, Joan will coordinate with him; we'd need to create a list of things to show. Could solicit for the Marie Ferre memorial bench. Motion: Joan: Joe and Joan will put together topics and materials and present them at this event. Second: Joe; discussion: none; vote: passes unanimous. Carol can help if she is back in time.

Don Campbell has been appointed as of March 1; term expires 12/31/17; has yet to be sworn in.

State register of Historic Places from MHC sent a large document. Not MACRIS (all the state historic places), National Register properties only. We can bring it to the April 8 event and then give to the library.

NHC is meeting with the Zoning Revision Committee on our April 13, 2017 meeting at 4:00pm. This will be a joint meeting of the 2 commissions. Carol will be back in time to post.

Bob Hall is retiring from the planning board.

**Old Business:**

Alderbrook Trail signage: from Sue: name is after Jeffery Ames; at beginning of trail will be kiosk overview of Northfield's early history of that site especially; Northfield Fort, and the Beers attack during King Phillips War, Indian Council Fires site; Lynne Manning is drafting something for that; along the trail there will be natural history and cultural signage. Lynn sent rough notes and wants to look over what is there to add any missing points of interest. We can look over the notes in April. Sue will send a copy of the notes to all of us by email. We have been emphatic that we'd like NHC to look at the draft. Joe village sites exist within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the Connecticut River and within 50 yards of fresh water. Many village sites in Northfield, over 9,000 years of continued occupation; Dina Dincause's reports, Sue found interesting notes on post-European contact time period land changes including river floods, not long after the Native Americans left this area, Joe touched on the effects of depopulation as a result of the 1630's plagues, The Europeans started harnessing the streams which disturbed some stream site lands. We discussed in a pamphlet we should remind people things didn't always look like they do now.

Dates of haying in location of possible summer event: Joe farmer not amenable to tight time table for haying too much potential for large crop loss if hay cut too premature or cut and baled wet just to meet use of lot for event. Discussed the potential to use First Light land just north of pavilion location, noise? First light. Also Bennett Meadow...DCR... more difficult; try First Light first.

Joan asked about the timing for the all clear on the contamination test wells at the 24 Main Street location. Joe: testing finishes this year, Joe will check with Geoincite and DEP for details of process. NHC can purchase own and sell properties, envisioning construction, is it possible construction could disturb a pocket of pollution that could migrate to abutters properties? Joe can the State back the Town/indemnify? Joan envisioning a building on a slab, septic is still in tact. Need to know time frame for clean up completion before a concept paper can be considered, Discussion of zoning requirements. We are in a fact-finding stage, had a meeting with the landowner about buying it included Rep Paul Mark who is in favor of it. A summary of a conversation between Joan and Sue about the 24 Main Street parcel was created and sent into the regional economic development plan.

Center Cemetery: no progress

**New Business:**

Current Thursday scheduled meetings don't work for Don, Monday or Tuesday is a possibility for 4:00pm. This will be on the agenda for next meeting. Look at your schedules and see what you can do.

We are ready to go up and review files together for a few minutes.

**Motion to adjourn at 5:04;** Joe; Second; Bob, Discussion: none Vote passes unanimously.

Next meeting April 13<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joe Graveline, Secretary

April 13, 2017