

Northbridge Historical Commission
Meeting held: Via Zoom [COVID-19 Pandemic]
Date: April 28, 2020
At: 7:00pm

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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
DOREEN A. CEDRONE

Chair: Lenny Smith
Ken Warchol
Steve Miller
Wendy Timmons

1. Verbally approved Minutes from February 11, 2020 [Steve Miller motioned to accept, Ken Warchol seconded, all approved unanimous] Today's meeting originally planned for April 21, was moved to April 28th from the Golf Course to Zoom meets.
Old Business:
2. Opened up with a re- discussion of the Trolley tours because of the pandemic:
 - Discussed the deposit for the Trolley reservation and placed on hold until the fall.
 - Discussed all Corporate sponsors to include: Omni (Peter Bedigian), UniBank (Mike Stone), Osterman Propane (Vinny Osterman), and Koopman Lumber (Jim Koopman) and to place on hold.
 - Lenny Smith motioned to delay the Tours indefinitely until it is safe to begin again. The tours attract a vulnerable group of tourist, and safety would be a huge concern. Ken Warchol seconded, unanimous
3. Discussed meeting tentatively at the end of May, leaning more into June for our next meeting [Via Zoom]
4. Discussed Ken Warchol to be video documented as "Paul Whitin" as this would keep the history alive and a documentary for the National Park
 - Reach out to local TV stations and cable to perhaps do this documentary
5. Update on the Preservation Award: State of Massachusetts reached out and confirmed receipt of information. Lenny Smith needed to send it digitally as Ben Haley (Secretary of State) needed it sent that way because of the pandemic by February 21st.
6. Ken Warchol mentioned that a 7th member may be entering the Historical Commission, have to check with Town Hall.
7. Discussed the 250th Anniversary Parade committees and ideas
8. Discussion about the Spanish Flu Pandemic in Whitinsville and how two mansions were actually turned into hospitals during that time period. More information located in the archives and Telegram and Gazette pages during WWII
9. Discussed an idea to create a letter to the National Parks Service to purchase the LaSalle Mansion to use as the headquarters for the Park.
10. Next Meeting scheduled for June 2, 2020, VIA Zoom or teleconference, at 7pm
11. Steve Miller motioned to adjourn, Ken Warchol seconded, adjourned at 7:50pm