

Northbridge Historical Commission Meeting

6/16/15

**Present:** Ken Warchol, Paula McCowan, Dan O'Neill, Karen Talley.

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NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK  
DOUGLAS A. TOWN

**The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM. Member Wendy Timmons will be delayed.**

The chairman led off the discussions with a question: Are the Commission members happy with the result of the Douglas Rd bridge project which was recently completed?

None voiced a complaint.. excepting the chair, who said that the original cornerstone with the date of the original stone arch bridge which was placed in a similar spot within the new bridge structure was not visible enough. He suggested painting the engraved numerals black, to stand out more to viewers. A vote was taken to investigate this solution and passed unanimously.

**At this point, Wendy T joined the group.**

The chair then brought up another topic for discussion:

Should the town seek to have or allow banners on the light posts on and near the bridge?

The commission talked over this issue and settled on these guidelines:

No commercial banners on or near the bridge.

Only town-approved historical banners.

Other banners can be displayed there on holidays.

Hanging baskets of flowers will be encouraged, if some person(s) will agree to keep them up.

No locks to commemorate lasting love between people will be allowed. The locks are glued to the bridges in other towns and the keys ceremoniously tossed into the stream. One bridge attracted so much like attention that it became structurally unsound (per Ken W).

The Commission voted to have Ken W approach the Selectmen with our recommendation.

In a matter related to the flower baskets, Ken W has heard from Alternatives management that they will volunteer to keep up the baskets, in return for using bigger baskets than currently thought of.

A vote was then taken to encumber (hold over) the sum of \$500 from this year's Commission budget to next years, for the historical sign project. This year is already accounted for. The vote was unanimous.

The next subject was the 2 revolutionary war historical signs that have been completed, but not installed. Wendy T told the group that they have been completed and stored at the artist-company (Graffiti Works) since last fall. The commission voted to give them a deadline for delivery b/c of a planned ceremony . The vote was unanimous.

The cost of such bigger signs is \$100-200, and Ken W recommended that in the future they be made with a metal cover on top to prevent rot.

Ken W mentioned to the group that the historical signs in Riverdale need replacement.

This was tabled for future discussion.

The chair then made a request that a vote be taken that the chain-link fence at the Grammar(Aldrich) School be remove b/c it distracts from the beauty of the newly refurbished road. A motion was made and seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.