

Northbridge Historical Commission

Minutes of Monday, June 14, 2021

7PM via TELECONFERENCING

Present: Len Smith, Chairperson, Ken Warchol, Stephen Miller, Christine Johnson

Absent: Wendy Timmons

Call to order at 7:03 by Len Smith, Chairperson

1.0 Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Len Smith, "To Approve the Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2020" Seconded by Ken Warchol. Motion carries unanimously.

2.0 National Park Service – Approval of signage recommendation to Board of Selectman

A discussion regarding the design and placement of the two plaques provided by the National Park Service which requires approval of the Selectmen. The plaques are complete and the Historical Commission moves as follows:

Motion made by Len Smith "To Recommend to the Board of Selectmen and the National Park Service that the signage identified by the "You Are Here" plaque be located on Linwood Avenue, in front of the Cotton Mill and directly across from the Town Common Placard on Church Street" Seconded by Steve . Motion carries unanimously.

Motion made by Len Smith "To Recommend to the Board of Selectmen and the National Park Service that the signage identifying Whitin Machine Works be placed on the grassy knoll area known as Fletcher Forge" Seconded by Christine Johnson. Motion carries unanimously.

3.0 Whitinsville Town Common -0 Replace Placard on Church Street

Motion made by Len Smith, "To Recommend to the Board of Selectmen that we notify the National Park Service that the 3rd signage located on Church Street depicting the Whitinsville Historic District be repaired and or replaced." Seconded by Ken Warchol. Motion carries unanimously.

4.0 250th Anniversary - Discussion

The Commission discussed the upcoming 250th Anniversary of the Town of Northbridge in 2022. Ken Warchol provided an overview of the process, events, and activities that took place in 1972 for the 225th Anniversary in collaboration with the Historical Commission and Historical Society, which included a request by the Historical Commission to form a planning committee.

Motion made by Len Smith, "To request that the Board of Selectmen authorize the Northbridge Historical Commission to form a planning committee to organize a Town of Northbridge 250th Anniversary Celebration." Seconded by Christine Johnson. Motion carries unanimously.

RECEIVED
21 AUG - 6 AM '21
NORTHBRIDGE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

5.0 Community Preservation Committee Update – Lasell Manor & Castle Hill

Len Smith serves as the liason to the CPC and the Northbridge Historical Commission. He provided an update on the status of the adoption of the CPC Plan by the residents and that the plan has been approved at the Town Meeting. The CPC is funded by a 1% tax assessment. The plan requires these funds to be used to fund projects that focus on preservation, recreation, and open space within the Town of Northbridge. He described the process by which a resident may submit a request for project funding. A discussion on the feasibility of funding on two properties that have significance to the Town, the Lasell House, and Castle Hill, as well as the viability of each project moving forward through the CPC. At this time, the Castle Hill project meets all three areas of focus as defined by the approved CPC language. The full plan and further information on the CPC are available on the Town's website.

6.0 Status of MA Preservation Awards

Len Smith provided an update on the MA Preservation Awards process which has been tabled due to COVID. The Historical Commission has nominated Ken Warchol for recognition, however, the current Preservation Awards have been suspended indefinitely. We continue to monitor the status of this Award as we seek to gain recognition for the many years and contributions by Ken Warchol in the preservation of the history of the Town of Northbridge.

7.0 Other

Len Smith recognized the contributions of Stephen Miller as a member of the Northbridge Historical Commission and extends appreciation for his active participation in this Commission. Stephen's term expires at the end of this month. A posting for this open position will be forthcoming.

The next scheduled meeting of the Northbridge Historical Commission is July 19, 2021, at 7 PM, location TBD.

The meeting adjourns at 8:05

Minutes submitted by Christine Johnson.