

**Northbridge Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes (ZOOM)
Friday, February 10, 2023 (Approved April 26, 2023)**

Present: Mark DeWeerd, Caryn Gagner, Christine Johnson, Ken Warchol, Dave Potty,

Absent: None

Guest: David Blauvelt

1. Approval of Meetings

None at this time.

2. Appointment of Officers and Members

Motion made by Christine Johnson to appoint Ken Warchol as Chairperson; Seconded by Dave Potty. Seeing no other motions on the table, the motion carries unanimously.

Motion made by Ken Warchol to appoint Christine Johnson as Vice Chairperson. Seconded by Caryn Gagner. Seeing no other motions on the table, the motion carries unanimously.

Motion made by Christine Johnson to appoint Caryn Gagner as Secretary. Seconded by Ken Warchol. Seeing no other motions on the table, the motion carries unanimously.

3. Historical Tours for 2023 (Trolley, Walking)

Discussion took place regarding the 2023 schedule of tours. The tours are offered in collaboration with the Northbridge Historical Society. The Commission considered whether the tours should be provided when other events occur in the town. Ken informed the NHC that the trolley is booking quickly and May 13 is available.

Motion made by Ken Warchol to approve the expending of funds to support a trolley tour offered on Saturday, May 13. Seconded by Mark DeWeerd. The motion carries unanimously.

Details will be discussed at the April meeting, which includes a possible tour of Fletcher House and a slide show in the Great Hall.

4. Historical Signage – Rockdale, Aldrich School

Ken Warchol informed the NHC that signs in Rockdale and at Aldrich School needed to be replaced. We propose that the DPW remove both signs and clean the graffiti off the new sign on Church Street abutting Memorial Square. Ken will contact the DPW, and Christine will obtain the replacement quote for the Rockdale sign. The Aldrich School sign repair is placed on hold until we gather further details about the use of the building. Both signs will be identical to the existing signage. David Blauvelt, a member of the Northbridge Historical Society, has volunteered to clean the sign at the Fletcher House. The NHC thanked him for his offer and effort.

5. 250th American Revolution Anniversary (1775)

Ken Warchol informed the NHC that the Massachusetts Historical Society and other statewide affiliates are planning to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution. Communities across the state are asked to participate in the planning of events and join in the celebration. Northbridge was part of the 200th Anniversary, and the consensus is that Northbridge should continue its participation. The NHC agreed to share ideas regarding possible events at its April meeting.

6. Grants & Financial Status

Christine Johnson provided an update on the NHC finances, which includes \$2000 from the Town of Northbridge, available funds for trolley/walking tours for \$2,500 (grant and a Unibank donation). Funds are generated through donations and the Walking Tour of Whitinsville Maps sale. The tours are provided free of charge. The NHC will continue to pursue and share information with other Committees regarding grant funding. Ken Warchol is working with the Episcopal Church to assist them in securing funds to refurbish its bell tower through available Massachusetts historical grants.

7. Other

- David Blauvelt, a resident of Northbridge, has submitted his talent form to serve as a volunteer on the Northbridge Historical Commission. There are currently two open positions. He is an archaeologist by profession and passionate about preserving our history. Mr. Blauvelt is moving forward to the Board of Selectmen as an appointee to the Downtown Crossing Committee and is a member of the Northbridge Historical Society.

Motion made by Dave Potty to move David Blauvelt forward to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the NHC; Seconded by Ken Warchol. The motion carries unanimously.

- Mark DeWeerd provided information regarding approving the proposed Town Hall signage, which NHC and the Downtown Crossing Committee reviewed. This approval is based on the understanding that it adheres to the scheduled on/off usage and recommendations.
- The NHC considered a joint meeting with the Northbridge Historical Society to share ideas about historical preservation and potential grant funding.
- The NHC considered a regular meeting scheduled for the 4th Wednesday at 7 PM every other month April 26, June 28, August 23, October 25, and December 27. Other meeting dates may be required to expedite timely issues.

Submitted by Christine Johnson, NHC Secretary

2.13.23