

Norfolk Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes - Jan. 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 pm by Betsy Pyne. Board members in attendance included Marcia Johnston, Betsey Whitney, Gail Sullivan and Geri Tasker. One guest, Donna Jones, was also present.

Minutes: Members read the minutes and accepted them as written.

Financial Report: A discussion regarding our finances was put off until next month due to the absence of our treasurer.

Eagle Scout Project: Geri brought in an article from the *Norfolk and Wrentham Local Town Pages* written by Barbara Bartholomew describing the Eagle Scout Project of Nick Simmons. Nick took on the responsibility of cleaning gravestones in the colonial section of Norfolk Cemetery. Other high school students involved in the cleaning process include Billy Hessler, Mike Norberg, Jack Norberg, Brooks O'Neil and Nick Simmons.

Town Report: We reviewed projects accomplished in 2017 for the upcoming Town Report. Geri requested that individuals involved in the various projects write up a brief description and she will compile the report. Topics include:

- Rockwood Road Historic District was recognized and accepted by the Massachusetts Historical Commission on April 17, 2017
- Eagle Scout Grave cleaning of the colonial section of the Norfolk Cemetery
- We continue to work with Grange members on the issues concerning the Preservation Restriction including landscaping and signage.
- Repair and replacement of Highland Lake Crossing Sign
- Reprint issued of 1970 edition of *Norfolk Revisited* (which is available at the Town Clerk's office)
- NHC acquired a milk bottle from the *Warelands Dairy Farm*; this was donated by Alex McClintock.
- After many years, the door to the Pondville Cemetery Crypt was finally restored and reinstalled; our thanks to Tom Benedetti of the Highway Department.
- Completed two designs of anniversary sweatshirts and also mugs to commemorate Norfolk's upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration in 2020. (Sweatshirts are available at the library, and mugs are available at the Town Clerk's office.)
- We are working on publishing the *History of Norfolk* by Bertha Fales; the manuscript was handwritten in the 1930s in several notebooks and typed in the 1950s. We are reprinting and editing all versions for publication to be ready for Norfolk's birthday celebration.
- A talk discussing the *History of the Library's School House* was delivered in Oct. 31 by Betsey Whitney and Betsy Pyne in the Community Room at the Norfolk Public Library.

Essay Contest: We revisited our goal to offer an essay contest for Norfolk students and discussed possible topics. Geri spoke with Sarina Bluhm about running the contest through the NP Library, and they would welcome such a project. Betsey W & Geri T will work together on the specifics.

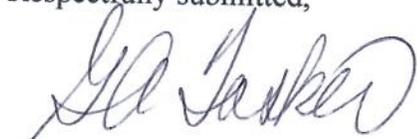
150th Anniversary: Donna Jones wanted our thoughts about Norfolk's upcoming birthday celebration. She suggested a committee be formed; she has been in touch with Marion Harrington who has about 6 people interested. There is a meeting on Monday January 22 for a planning session at 7 pm in the meeting room across from the NHC office. Donna invited interested NHC members to attend. She was here for 1970 celebration, but was not part of the planning committee. Issues surrounding the event include: How do people want to celebrate? (parade, fireworks, fire fighters muster, etc.), What is the process to fund such an event?

The Warelands: Earlier today, 1/16/18, Betsey W received a call from Norfolk Fire Chief, Cole Bushnell, to inform her that the Warelands basement is flooded with about 5 feet of water. He is very concerned because he is aware of the historic status of the property. The house is currently abandoned, derelict and unsafe. He had to shut off the electricity and water; there is renter in residence in one of the out buildings. He wants to go about cleaning up without disturbing the historical integrity; the windows need to be boarded up, but they contain the original window panes, and he is concerned about damage to them. The property is owned by a mortgage company, that would like to demolish and build a new house. He has had discussions with Bob Bullock, the building inspector, who will not issue a demolition permit because of the Preservation Restriction which stipulates that a non arson fire or calamity are the only circumstances when the house could be demolished and rebuilt. A burst pipe that caused flooding is not considered a calamity. NHC is aware of at least one interested buyer and would like to see the bank sell the property. Geri made a motion that Betsy Pyne contact the real estate agent to encourage the bank to negotiate in good faith with an interested buyer for the Warelands. Marcia Johnston seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Betsy will tell the RE that the preservation restriction on building is at the state level, and that this is a conservation commission issue for John Weddleton. The Preservation Restriction on the Warelands is filed with the Registry of Deeds, book 5380 page 733, 9/12/77.

Veterans Listing: Gail mentioned that there is a list of veterans on the NHC web site, but there are names that are missing including her father who served in WWII. Gail and Betsy will get together to work on our website.

Betsey moved to adjourn at 9:18; this was seconded by Gail and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Geraldine A. Tasker
Recording Secretary