

**Norfolk Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Betsy Pyne at 7 p.m. NHC members in attendance included Barbara Bartholomew, Gail Sullivan, Betsey Whitney, Marcia Johnston and Geri Tasker. Associate members Thelma Ravinski and Michelle Maheu were also present. Guests included Ann Russo, Larry Krasnow, Willa Bandler and Sandy Myatt.

**The Minutes** of the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting were read and approved.

**Financial Report:** There is no change in the Regular Fund since June when there was a total of 121.64. The Gift Fund totals \$5835.80. The Sweatshirt Fund totals \$220.49; this is pure profit as all of the bills for sweatshirts and mugs have been paid in full.

**Agenda Items:**

**Grange:** Betsy spoke with Helena Drolette, president of the Garden Club; NHC would like to partner with the Garden Club to help with the Grange Landscaping Project. Dennis has added more shrubs. Betsy P also talked to Sam Zeigler who is an NHC Associate member as well as a Grange Member; he will suggest the Grange form a Grounds Committee. Helena suggested that seeing as Samantha Benton is a member of the Garden Club and of the Grange that she would be a good person to ask to be a part of this group concerned about the Grange grounds. Helena said she would contact Samantha. Our donation to this project will be on hold until there is a grounds maintenance plan in place.

Barbara spoke with Kevin Roche about the possibility of adding air conditioning in the Grange; there is concern about where to house the unit outside to stay in keeping with the historic nature of the building.

**Warelands:** New owner, Willa Bandler wants the property to go back to being an education facility, not necessarily a dairy, but as an educational center where children could learn about agriculture. She is not planning to live in the house, but occupancy issues have come up. The school house was used as a residence, and Willa is trying to get that back to being a residence legally. Building Inspector, Bob Bullock informed her that two houses on the same property are not allowed under the law. There appears to be confusion about the timing of the occupancy law as both houses were being occupied before the law and therefore should be grandfathered since the double occupancy precludes the law about two residences. It was suggested that Willa consider appealing the Building Inspector's current ruling. Barbara suggested going through the State Reps and Senators to make Warelands an exception to the rule because of its historic significance. She has contacted contractors for quotes to complete repairs including Dan Diapolo from Quincy. Her goal is to work on the barn at this time to stabilize the building before winter sets in. Willa can be contacted at 505-660-7756.

**Fales History:** Over the Summer, Barbara and Geri worked on the notes and appendices for Bertha's *History of Norfolk*. In addition to Bertha's original manuscript, we are including a biography and timeline of Bertha's life as well as the History of Fales Memorial Park. Barbara, Gail and Geri did the

first reading to edit; Geri has made corrections, added Barbara's notes, timeline and park history. Betsy will read and edit the current manuscript. We are not quite finished, but we are getting close.

**Friends of Lawrence St:** Sandy Myatt, spokesperson for this effort, told us that construction of the new bridge is interfering with their neighborhood as well as the Buckley and Mann Property where there is lots of contamination. They would like to preserve the historic sign dating from 1915 and include it as part of the new bridge; they have a Public Information Plan in an attempt to appeal the destruction. The DEP is in charge of the order of conditions. Bridge not closed yet, but it has become unsafe to drive over as all of the trees have been taken down. In addition, there is concern about 200 housing units that will be built off of Lawrence Street by DiPlacido Construction. Barbara mentioned that if the sign is destroyed, an etching of the original sign could be made from a picture to make a plaque to recognize the site. Additional information can be found on [NorfolkBigDig.com](http://NorfolkBigDig.com)

**Bartholmew Report:** Barbara brought items for our archives including a copy of Nick Simmons Eagle Scout Project, Fran Donovan's RR Book, a RR spike, a cleat from the door of a Pond tomb, DVD program on King Philip's War presentation by Michael Tougias. For additional details refer to BB's attached notes.

**Lake Weeds:** Barbara has been working with the Friends of Highland Lake to solve the terrible weed problem infesting this lake and others in town. She went to Selectmen with a plan to purchase a Mobil ~~Track~~ <sup>Trac</sup> which would remove and control the weeds. She foresees an ongoing maintenance plan, managed by the DPW, to control the weeds in all of the town's lakes as well as the possibility of renting the equipment to neighboring towns.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to adjourn at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Geraldine Tasker

Secretary