

Northfield Historical Commission

Northfield MA

10/26/23, 1:30 Town Hall

Minutes

Attendance: Bee Jacque, Mary Mayshark-Stavely, Stacy Bond, Joe Graveline, Mary King. Guest: Misha Storm, Library Director.

Call to Order: 1:35 p.m. No citizen input.

Minutes, 8/24/23: Bond moved and Graveline seconded that the minutes be approved. Approved; Graveline abstained because he did not attend the last meeting.

Historical Documents from Town Vault: Original "Indian Deeds" and other documents from Squakheag's settlement by the Europeans were examined. The documents were professionally prepared by the New England Document Conservation Center in 1995. Several Indian Deeds, the first from 1/6/1671, are visible front and back. The print is quite legible, in some cases stamps are visible on a document. Other documents include "Town Officers Chosen", "Divisions of Some Land" (Moose Plain, Great Meadow) and "What We Have Paid to Indians Already", as well as other interesting records. The Historical Commission will submit a grant application to the Community Preservation Committee for money to at least partially fund a digitization project. To avoid having to send these precious records out of town, purchase of a scanner that would be for town use and maintained at the library is the goal. Transcribing the documents, once digitized, is also desirable. Digitized records are accessible to everyone, transcription provides additional access, and the originals will remain safely conserved in the town vault.

Stacy Bond left the meeting at 2:30.

Calvin Swan research at Homestead: Katie Lincoln, a graduate student at UMASS-Boston studying historical archaeology, has toured the Swan site with NHC members, Joanne McGee and Eric Johnson, archaeologist. She is interested in using LiDAR technology to further map the site. The NHC supports this; Graveline moved and Mayshark-Stavely seconded, that we fund up to \$100 for travel and incidentals for Katie Lincoln's efforts. The **motion** was approved unanimously. Bee Jacque said that Lincoln will be urged to continue with her mapping efforts of the Swan site and

cellar holes. Katie's work may move us toward a MHC historical site designation for the Swan Homestead.

MA Historical Commission Letter and solar fields: the PNF has been received. NHC is observing the solar project along the Connecticut River to assure that archaeological and tribal knowledge is included in considerations. King **moved** and Mayshark-Stavely **seconded**: the historical commission authorizes the Northfield Historical Commission Chair and Vice-Chair to work with Tribal Historic Preservation Officers of the Wampanoag of Gaylord (Aquinnah) and the Elnu Abenaki Tribes to communicate concerns and needs regarding the archaeological research of the proposed solar fields. This **motion** passed unanimously.

Naming of NHC member to Community Preservation Committee: King **moved** and Graveline **seconded** that Mary Mayshark-Stavely represent NHC on the CPC. This **motion** passed unanimously.

Discussion of proposed agenda topics: several topics, among them sensitivity maps, follow-up on 350th events, the possibility of historic trails and more will be moved to next month's agenda.

Next meeting: TBD.

Adjourned at 3:46, **Motion to adjourn by** Graveline, **seconded by** Mayshark-Stavely. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary K. King".

Mary King

Secretary