

Approved 3.20.24

Northbridge Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 18, 2024

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JAN 27 AM 8:33

Present: Ken Warchol, Co-Chair; Christine Johnson, Co-Chair; Dave Blauvelt, Clerk,
Mark DeWeerd, Dave Potty

NORTHBRIDGE TOWN CLERK
LARA D. EYRIEN

Absent: Cayrn Gagner, James Lurgio

Ken Warchol called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Dave Poty made a motion: **"To approve the minutes of November 28, 2023"**. Seconded by Mark DeWeerd. The motion passes unanimously.

Ken Warchol provided an update on Clarence Risher's request to review a proposal for the installation of solar panels on Lasell Manor. Ken spoke with the installer to determine the scope of the project, including the installation of the panels on the outbuilding (Boarding House). Ken informed the NHD that the building has no current preservation restriction. The installer was aware of the building's historical importance to the Town of Northbridge and would consider this if he were to install the panels. Ken will keep the NHC apprised of any further discussions.

Christine Johnson shared the drawings of the proposed historical markers for Northbridge villages and her conversations with the town manager regarding approval and costs. The Commission discussed color, phrasing, size, and product composition.

Dave Poty motioned **"To approve the designs as presented for the replacement of the Rockdale Historical Marker and to proceed with the purchase and installation of this sign."** Seconded by Mark DeWeerd. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine Johnson updated the NHC on CPC discussions regarding preserving the Fletcher House. CPC approved the two warrant articles to be presented to voters at the Annual Town Meeting in May. The work to secure bids and a preservation restriction continues.

NHC continued to discuss the enhancements to the current Historic District Walking Map. She reminded the NHC that the completion of this project was time-sensitive. The NHC agreed to invite a digital designer and a local Linwood historian to the next meeting to discuss map additions, which include highlighting the Mumford Riverwalk and historical Linwood sites.

Plans to engage students to develop American250 activities are underway. Christine Johnson met with students from WCS, history department chairperson Mark DeWeerd, and teachers to explore project ideas. The teachers were enthusiastic and offered suggestions for the future.

The NHC accepted a donation of ephemera from Susan Matheson. A letter of appreciation will be sent to her.

A motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM was unanimously approved.