



TOWN OF NORWELL
Norwell Town Offices, Room 112
345 Main Street
Norwell, Massachusetts 02061
(781) 659-8000

Norwell Historical Commission Meeting Minutes September 18, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chair Laurie Detwiler at 5:40 PM. Present were Members Alan Prouty, David DeGhetto, Rachel Wollam, Nancy McBride, and Lily Cleveland. Anne Greene and James Kelliher were unable to attend. The meeting was held in the Local History Room of the Norwell Library.

AGENDA

Motion by Ms. Wollam to approve the agenda as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Detwiler and unanimously voted.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 9 meeting were distributed and reviewed.

Motion by Ms. Wollam to accept the Minutes of the August 9, 2023 meeting as submitted. Seconded by Ms. McBride and approved 4-0-1, Ms. Wollam having abstained.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND BILLS

The following invoices were presented for approval:

Name of Vendor:	Item/ Activity Description	Amount:	Account Number:
1. Verizon	Communication Service to Jacobs Farmhouse	\$44.18	81-000-7065-5780
2. National Grid	Electric Service to Jacobs Farmhouse	\$90.12	81-000-7065-5780
3. R.E. Lyons	Fire extinguisher service Jacobs Farmhouse	\$169.00	81-000-7065-5780
4. Christopher Sullivan - Proofreading & Transcription Services	NHS Minutes of Meeting - August 9, 2023	\$75.00	01-691-0201-5780
5. Lynn Smiledge	Form B inventory (20)	\$5434.00	(CPC)
Total of Billable Amounts Listed Above:		\$5812.30	

A \$484.00 invoice from Local IQ for the 85 Mount Blue Street legal ad was tabled for more information. Administrator Kristin Ford advised that the bill had to be paid, but Ms. McBride believes applicant has already paid; she will ask for the receipt.

Mr. DeGhetto noted that the Lyons and National Grid invoice amounts seemed high; the latter may be due to Cross Street Flower Farm events and his understanding is that CSFF was to help pay such costs. He will research both matters further.

Chair Detwiler advised that the tenant at the Stetson Ford House has not let Albert Culver in for the annual tune-up invoiced at the previous meeting. Mr. DeGhetto will contact Culver to determine why they are billing for this service in advance.

Motion by Mr. DeGhetto to approve the invoices as submitted. Seconded by Ms. Wollam and unanimously voted.

Bill Approval Process

CPC administrator Kristin Ford advised that the Board could delegate the task of signing off on bills after they have been approved. The Board voted to authorize the Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer to sign invoices, with any two of the three signatures being sufficient for processing.

Motion by Ms. Detwiler to grant authority to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer, any two of the three, to sign off on bills, said bills to be discussed at the meeting at which they are presented for payment. Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.

Administrative Assistance

Chair Detwiler noted that Ms. Ford had in the past been given hours to assist the Commission with invoice processing, tracking Building permits, and other tasks. All agreed there was still a need for admin assistance, and Ms. McBride will set up a meeting with Town Administrator Darleen Sullivan and Human Resources Director Barbara Childs to ask that it be restored. Chair Detwiler will work with Ms. Ford to quantify the hours needed.

Form B Updates

Consultant Lynn Smiledge has completed Phase 2 of the Form B rewrites. Ms. Cleveland and Chair Detwiler will look at possible additional properties to inventory with the remaining funds.

OLD BUSINESS

The Commission briefly discussed the Select Board's decision to not seek a residential renter at the Jacobs Farmhouse and do the same at the Stetson Ford House once the current tenant vacates. The possibilities of caretakers, making the properties open to the public, and a future Select Board revisiting the decision were considered.

The Select Board, Town Administration, and Conservation Commission are working on the terms of a new license for Cross Street Flower Farm to use the Jacobs Farm fields. Chair Detwiler expressed concerns with the current arrangement, including overuse of the property, large events, and accessibility of the barn space to residents. A draft agreement will be ready soon.

A dumpster used by Cross Street Flower Farm caused damage to a stone wall in back of the Jacobs Farm field; Gibraltar Stonecraft is providing an estimate for the repair, and CSFF will be charged.

NEW BUSINESS

Norwell High School students will be doing planting and clearing at the Jacobs Farm as part of the Norwell Cares service day. The Board authorized the use of up to \$350.00 for supplies.

Motion by Ms. Wollam to authorize the expenditure of up to \$350.00 on daffodil bulbs and pea stone for the Norwell Cares service project at the Jacobs Farmhouse. Seconded by Ms. McBride and unanimously voted.

NEXT MEETING

October 2, 2023 – Norwell Town Library, 5:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

*There being no further business, a motion was made by Ms. Detwiler to adjourn at 6:40 PM.
Seconded by Mr. DeGhetto and unanimously voted.*

I hereby certify that the above minutes were presented and approved by a majority vote of the
Norwell Historical Commission on _____.

Laurie Detwiler, Chair