

Town of North Smithfield
Historic District Commission

Minutes of June 1, 2016

A meeting of the North Smithfield Historic District Commission was held on
Monday, June 1, 2016
at 6:30 PM
Heritage Hall, 101 Greene St. Street, Slatersville, RI

Call to order: 6:38

Members Present Dan Couture, Christian de Rezendes, Jeffrey Harris, Jeffrey Fontaine,
Elizabeth Martin, Keith Nadeau

Members Absent: none

Materials Distributed: Agenda, Minutes from April 25, 2016,

Approval of Minutes from April 25, 2016

Minutes from April 25, 2016 meeting was unanimously approved.

Applications:

- A. No applications filed

Old Business

- A. Review/Update: Forestdale Schoolhouse Master Plan(re; joint venture with the N.S. Heritage Association).
 - 1. Master plan project is moving along.
 - 2. Brewster Thornton has put together a draft plan; consultants toured the property and are preparing their reports.
 - 3. Meeting with NSHA is expected at end of June.
- B. Review Update: Forestdale Schoolhouse Stair Replacement Project.
 - 1. Stair replacement project is underway.
 - 2. Contractor is using mahogany for steps which holds up better than cedar.
- C. Review Update : Forestdale Mill/Stamina Mill site; Town Meeting with EPA, Skeo Solutions and RI DEM, Thursday, May 12, 10-12:30, Scouters Hall
 - 1. Skeo Solutions is putting together a report examining how the site can be used as well as what cannot be done with the site as it is a superfund site.
 - 2. Piping is slated to be removed, but vapor extraction will continue.
 - 3. The land may have some limitations where there may be sink holes.
- D. Review Update : Old Stone Arch Bridge, Slatersville.
 - 1. DOT can use mechanical stitching in lieu of metal so the stone facade underneath the bridge will be visible.
 - 2. Project is supposed to start in October.

New Business

- A. Notice: Town of North Smithfield 'charette" re: Blackstone River Valley National Historic Park, Slatersville Historic District, June 11, 2016, Scouters Hall
1. Charette is meant to be idea generating; to attain towns people point of view.
- B. Discussion: Wind Turbine installation proposal: 836 Old Smithfield.
1. NSHDC has no jurisdiction. Old Smithfield is not in a local historic district.
- C. Inquiry: Creation of new local historic district: Old Smithfield Road.
1. Jeff Harris was asked as to how to create a new local historic district.
 2. First there must be interest by the group, a consensus of those within the proposed district, then a minimum of 2 public hearings.
- D. Review NS HDC Five Year Plan (actions to be considered):
1. Development of historic district plaque program.
 - a. Discussion postponed. Will review later.
 2. Develop guidelines for sustainability (energy efficiency and renewable energy) as it relates to historic preservation.
 - a. Need to develop a process in how to marry historic preservation with sustainability.
 - b. Clean Air Cool Planet may be a resource.
 3. Develop property listings and 'overlay' maps of Town of North Smithfield National Historic Districts and National Historic Properties.
 4. Engage Planning Department and Building/ Zoning Department to introduce Historic District Overlay Zones into the town's website/ GIS map system.
- E. The National Park Service (NPS) may have some available funds (\$2,500) to expend on the new National Park in Slatersville but timing is of the essence, mid- August is the deadline. The NSHDC was asked for its input.
1. NSHDC suggests that the NPS could provide funding for "Historic Markers" for several of the buildings in Slatersville, starting with the Slatersville Mill, maybe two markers there for each of the large mill buildings (cost and available funds would determine number of markers that could be produced at this time).
 2. A Historic Marker would be simple stone (limestone/granite/slate/marble/bluestone/ or brick) with perhaps a bronze plaque attached that gives information about the building with some brief history
 3. Two members volunteered to look into some samples and estimates.

Subcommittee Reports:

- A. Subcommittee: Union Village Historic District Research Committee

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was called a close at 8:23

Motion : Jeff Fontaine

Seconded: Dan Couture

All in favor

Opposed: None