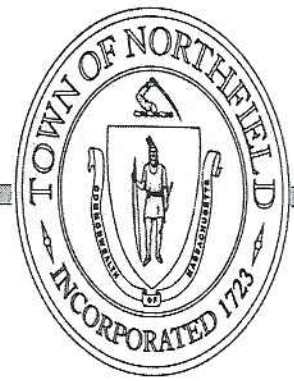


# TOWN OF NORTHFIELD

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

69 Main Street, Northfield, Massachusetts 01360

Phone: (413) 498-2901 Fax: (413) 498-5103



May 8, 2007

Brona Simon  
Executive Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard  
Boston, MA 02125

Dear Ms. Simon:

This is to inform you that at the Town of Northfield's Annual Town Meeting held on May 7, 2007 the following article submitted by petition was approved. The article was not supported by the Board of Selectmen or by the Finance Committee.

*Move that the Town approve the following: Whereas the Schell Bridge has been eligible for the National Register of Historic Places since 1981; whereas listing on the National Register would enhance fundraising opportunities from national public and private sources,*

*Be it resolved that the Town of Northfield, as owner of the Schell Bridge, directs The Northfield Board of Selectmen to send a letter, within 30 days, to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, giving consent for the Northfield Historical Commission to proceed with the nomination of the Schell Bridge to The National Register of Historic Places.*

As directed by Town Meeting, the Northfield Board of Selectmen hereby gives consent for the Northfield Historical Commission to proceed with the nomination of the Schell Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places.

For the following reasons the Northfield Board of Selectmen is concerned about the nomination of the Schell Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places:

- At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 5, 1987 Town Meeting voted "that the Town authorize the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Public Works, to demolish and remove the Schell Bridge." That vote has not been rescinded.
- In a letter dated February 2, 2004, Albert R. Stegemann, MassHighway District Highway Director, estimated the cost of rehabilitating the bridge to be \$20 million+ and the cost of demolition to be \$1 million+. In addition, Mr.

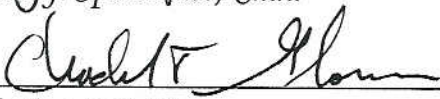
Stegemann stated that there were no apparent sources of grant funding for rehabilitation of the bridge.


- The Board of Selectmen has worked closely with MassHighway to carry out the Town Meeting vote of 1987. We are concerned that the nomination of the Schell Bridge to the National Register of Historic Places will prevent MassHighway from funding the demolition of the bridge and that Northfield tax payers will have to pay for the demolition, which is estimated at \$1.3 million.

If you have questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

*Sincerely,*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John G. Spanbauer, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chadwick T. Glover

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bonnie Tucker L'Etoile  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SJD/sjd

- CC. Congressman Olver  
Senator Rosenberg  
Congressman Guyer  
Albert Stegemann, P.E., District Director, MassHighway District 2  
Richard Masse, P.E., District Project Development Engineer, MassHighway District 2  
Maureen Mullaney, FRCOG Transportation and GIS Program Manager  
Northfield Historical Commission