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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
January 4, 2023**

SHC members present: Julia Blakely (chair), Jennifer Madden, Mahlon Peterson, June Murphy, Matt Schimmel, Lisa Hassler, Rich Claytor, Brenda Kelley, Mary Lynch.

SHC members not present: Joanne Richardson

Members of the Public: Robert Thomson, Ryan Davis (reporter from *The Enterprise*)

Call to order: Julia Blakely called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

1. Review and approval of minutes: The November minutes were approved as amended. There were no minutes from the December meeting which was cancelled at the last minute due to illness and lack of quorum.

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow Up: Julia shared a copy of the letter of support she wrote on behalf of the SHC to FOSTA in support of their CPC application for historic newspaper digitization.

3. Public Forum: none

4. Staff Meeting: Regarding the treasurer position, see discussion below under New Business.

The town will be preparing its 2022 Annual Report soon. Members should submit to Julia a paragraph describing the SHC projects they worked on in 2022.

5. New Business: SHC members agree that a treasurer position would be helpful for the commission. The main task for this person will be to submit a budget to the town with plans for the upcoming year so these funds can be included in the town budget. Costs may include: replacing aging historic house markers, repairing historic district signs, maintaining the PocketSights app, paying for website help, commissioning reports from historic preservation experts, paying speaker fees, executing the preservation awards program, etc. This person would also track incoming money from the historic marker program, as well as payments to the sign makers. A motion to form a Treasurer position for the SHC and nominate Brenda Kelley for that position passed unanimously.

The Friends of the Sandwich Town Boardwalk recently organized a public meeting with invited members of the Army Corps of Engineers presenting. Shortly after this meeting Army Corps staff discovered paperwork from 1931 which designates the Boardwalk as a bridge. This means that the it is under the jurisdiction of the Coast Guard.

6. Old Business:

The SHC commissioned a historic preservation expert to examine 6 Harbor Street and 262 Old County Road after demolition requests were received by the SHDC. The site visits were completed in November. The reports indicated that 262 Old County Road is not a historically significant building, but that 6 Harbor Street is. At their meeting on December 12, the SHDC voted to deny the demolition permit for 6 Harbor Street. Sarah Korjeff, historic preservation expert for the Cape Cod Commission, also submitted a



statement in support of saving the house. In future situations like this one, the SHC should discuss in advance who we would like to ask to be present at the SHDC meeting.

Brenda has continued her project of comparing construction dates for historic properties in the town's records with the dates in the MACRIS database. She has found 132 buildings with discrepancies. This is important as applications come before the SHDC. If the construction date in the town records is significantly off, historic properties that should be protected can go under the radar. She has brought a short list of houses that need build-date corrections to the town's attention, with no action taken by the town in response so far. She will continue her project and come up with a final list of properties that need correction or more research.

June brought an application for a historic marker for the house at 10 Ploughed Neck Extension. A motion to approve a plaque reading "Hallsmere, c. 1840" passed unanimously. Applications for markers are now starting to come in through the online form and she has ten applications to research. She will investigate the possibility of applying to the Visitor Services Board for funding to replace some of the oldest markers which are beginning to crack and fade. An owner of a home with a historic house marker requested that QR codes be added to the historic house markers leading to a website with the history of the house. This information is already on the PocketSights app.

The SHC has been getting a lot of positive feedback and increased engagement on its Facebook page due to the efforts of SHC members. We want to continue this momentum. Members discussed a "If this house could talk..." format and other ideas. An item that was noted was making sure that at least two people have access to edit the SHC website.

7. Public forum: none

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: Matt asked SHC members their thoughts about an upcoming CPC agenda item regarding funding for the historic boathouse on Shawme Pond. The boathouse has been recently purchased by a private owner who has applied for public funds to restore it. Discussion included preservation restrictions, what the public benefit is for this project, risks of setting a precedent of spending public funds in this manner, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden