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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
February 1, 2023**

SHC members present: Jennifer Madden, Lisa Hassler, Brenda Kelly, Mahlon Peterson, Matt Schimmel, June Murphy, Joanne Richardson

SHC members not present: Julia Blakely (chair), Rich Claytor, Mary Lynch

Members of the Public: Ryan Davis (reporter from *The Enterprise*), Tim Mahoney

Call to order: Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

1. Review and approval of minutes: The January minutes were approved as written.

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow Up: The Friends of the Sandwich Town Archives application to the CPC for newspaper digitization that the SHC supported was approved.

SHC has a new email address: historicalcommission@sandwichmass.org. SHC members recommend that all email goes to the chair and she will distribute to the appropriate member.

3. Public Forum: Tim Mahoney of 139 Main Street: Tim's home was one of the ones examined by The Silver Jacket team from the Army Corps and he asked about the status of their report. Lisa recently checked with them and they expect the report to be ready by spring. Beyond what the report will recommend for his home, he is wondering if the town is investigating options for rising water levels? SHC members are unsure, but Lisa mentioned that rising water is being taken into consideration in the Local Comprehensive Plan, and that there is still a chance to influence this document.

4. Staff Meeting: SHC budget - Julia sent a draft budget for review at this meeting. SHC members made a number of additions and deletions. Brenda will bring an updated draft to the March meeting. The goal is to present this request to the town for the new fiscal year which begins on July 1.

5. New Business: Jennifer reviewed this history of the project to restore the cast iron fence at Cedarville Cemetery. The process of completing an application for funding from the CPC and the Cemetery Commissioners was successful and completed in 2019, but the project was not released by the town due to Covid and various construction projects. It is hoped that the project will be released later this year.

Julia suggested in an email that there may be enough interest in the cemeteries to form a group that would take on cemetery projects under the SHC. Members discussed and decided that it would be a good idea to do some outreach to see if there is someone willing to lead this effort (who may or may not join the SHC). If someone is identified, then they could recruit volunteers for whatever project is decided upon. Jennifer is willing to provide guidance to the group.

June presented her research for a marker for 1 Pleasant Street. She followed the deeds back to the original granted in 1836 by the Sandwich Glass Company with Deming Jarves named as their agent. A motion passed unanimously for the plaque to name the original owner "Charles Perry 1836."



Joanne presented her information about the Dillingham House at 71 Main Street in preparation for a historic marker. This house is reputed to have been built by Simeon Dillingham in either the seventeenth or eighteenth century, and then moved from either Sagamore or Tupper Road to its present location in 1810. SHC members suggested additional research to see if the original construction date can be narrowed down a bit more.

The SHC Facebook page has been receiving more engagement and members are encouraged to make posts. Upcoming posts are planned on the historical marker for 1 Pleasant Street, how to do historical research on your home, Cape Cod-style houses, and architectural choices on historic homes made to avoid taxes.

6. Old Business: Matt mentioned that the application before the CPC that we discussed at our last meeting for funding to restore the boathouse on Shawme Pond was withdrawn by the owner.

7. Public forum: Ryan Davis from The Enterprise asked if Sandwich was ever a dry town for a possible future article. No SHC member had ever heard of this.

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: Don Bayley sent June password for the website and she is now a contributor. The current website is currently in an older version of WordPress. We may need to look at moving this information to a newer platform.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden