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TOWN OF SANDWICH

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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission  
February 2, 2022**

**SHC Members present via Zoom:** Lisa Hassler (chair), Mahlon Peterson, Julia Blakely, Matt Schimmel, Brenda Kelly, Jennifer Madden

**Call to order:** Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**1. Review and approval of minutes:** The minutes from the meeting on December 1 passed unanimously.

**2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow Up:** Thanks to Ralph Vitacco and the town, the SHC now has its funding restored. Members can submit funding requests through Ralph.

Carolyn Crowell recently gave a collection of historic photos to town archivist Deb Rich.

Thanks to all members for submitting their items for the annual report which is now complete.

**3. Public forum:** none.

**4. Staff meeting:** Mahlon Peterson is now a full voting member of the SHC. Carolyn Crowell has asked to be an alternate member instead of a regular member.

**5 New business:** Mahlon Peterson will contact the high school to see if any students in video production are interested in filming a tour of the Wing Fort House that would then be publicly available, perhaps through local access TV. Theater classes might be interested in expanding this idea too.

Lisa Hassler distributed the Sandwich Historic Preservation Plan (see in particular pages 56-61) and Sandwich Historic Commission Long-Range Goals before the meeting so we can make plans for 2022: These documents will be discussed again at the March meeting. SHC members should consider how they would like to use their skills to work toward these goals.

During the discussion about goals, the project of updating the historic inventory forms was raised. Members feel this is a high priority, especially because the lack of one when a building is threatened is perceived to mean that the building is not important. Brenda volunteered to use a list that Lisa has already prepared of buildings over 100 years old to see which need a MACRIS form B. This is a first step to selecting a few that are a priority and finding a professional to complete the forms. We may be able to get CPC funding and/or a matching grant from Mass Historical to complete these forms. We would also like to work with the town to make sure that assessor's records for each historic property are accurate in regard to building construction date.

**6. Old Business:** The appeal of the new home at 18 State Street was denied.

Members would like to put more houses on the PocketSights app before the summer tourist season arrives.

**6. Public forum:** none



**7. Other business not anticipated by the chair:** Members discussed the damage to the Sandwich Boardwalk in the recent blizzard, and where the plans stand currently to rebuild the Boardwalk.

Julia mentioned that she recently attended a Massachusetts Historic Commission online presentation stating that Demo by Delay bylaws do not apply in local historic districts.

Members are concerned about the recent move of the town's archives to a basement room which makes them more susceptible to damage by flooding. Members also noted a lack of a lock on the storage room door during their recent tour. Lisa will ask about emergency response and security, as well as access to the home asset files for SHC members.

Matt noted that there is a new *Sandwich Enterprise* article about the town's plans to sell the Deacon Eldred House. The town is planning to sell it with a preservation restriction and an easement to preserve public access to the pond. They would also like the new owner to open the building to the public twice a year. Members are concerned that the requirements about pond access and interior access will deter qualified bidders, especially since there are other areas close by where residents have pond access. Lisa will write a letter to the BOS to indicate that the SHC is more concerned about preservation of the building than access.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Y. Madden