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

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

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

Call to order: Julia Blakely called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

Ralph Vitacco, Director of Planning and Economic Development from the Town of Sandwich, was present for SHC members to sign the First Church of Christ preservation restriction. A preservation restriction is necessary for any buildings which receive Community Preservation Act funding, and the SHC is the body that holds the restriction. Members noted that the SHC may consider adding the properties for which we hold preservation restrictions to our website.

Members discussed with Ralph a budget for SHC. This year he set aside \$1,200 for the SHC website; \$400 has been paid so far. He would like a budget from us by our next meeting (not to exceed \$5,000) for the new fiscal year that begins in July. We may submit a budget that is more than \$5,000 if we prioritize the expenditures.

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

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow Up: Any incoming emails to the new SHC email address will be distributed to everyone on the SHC. Julia will distribute emails to SHC members for follow-up when needed. June will respond to historic marker emails.

Julia has finished the SHC annual report for 2022 and submitted it to the town. She will put it on the SHC website.

Bill Daley wrote about the condition of the historic district signs. Lisa spoke to Beverly Comeau from the Visitor Services Board and they may be willing to pay to have these signs repaired. At a previous meeting we discussed asking the VSB to help with replacing some historic house markers as well. Lisa will ask her handyman to look at the signs and get an estimate. Matt will approach the board about paying the bill.

The owners of 6 Harbor Street have appealed the rejection of their demolition request to Old Kings Highway Regional Historic District. The meeting is March 21. SHC members have noted that the windows have been left open at that house. Julia will write to Brendan Brides to alert him of this situation.

The Cape Cod Commission has released a new website DataCapeCod.org which includes information about the historical development of Cape Cod. Sandwich has more pre-1750 structures than any other town on the Cape.

3. Public Forum: none

4. Staff Meeting: Brenda will put together the SHC budget for the April meeting and we will prioritize our requested expenses then.



Susan Raidy-Klein applied for an open alternate position on the SHC. Members voted unanimously to recommend her appointment by the Board of Selectman.

5. New Business:

Julia suggested that we consider asking author Andrew Noone to offer a talk for the community about his recent book about Sandwich native *Bathsheba Spooner: A Revolutionary Murder Conspiracy*. SHC members this would be a good idea, perhaps on a Saturday in the spring at the Sand Hill School.

Lisa there is a lot of interest in the Sandwich historic walking tour hosted on the PocketSights app from the Sandwich Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Service Board. They want to pay for a rack card to advertise the tour. Lisa will get a quote for the graphic design to design the rack card. SHC needs to improve the app and add houses in Jarvesville, downtown, and also a driving tour in Spring Hill. Sandwich Community Television is interested in making the tours more professional and accessible.

June presented a Historic Marker Application for 192 Main Street. SHC members voted unanimously to approve a marker reading "Polly Nye Bassett c. 1850."

6. Old Business: none

7. Public forum: Tim Mahoney of 139 Main Street. He attended the February meeting of the SHC as well and is wondering what the town plans to do to combat sea level rise. He thinks solutions need to be town-wide, and they will be expensive, time-consuming, and controversial. He is concerned that nothing is happening and is not sure how to raise awareness for action. Currently the town is working with a consultant to finish the Local Comprehensive Plan which will take sea level rise into consideration. The plan will then go to the Select Board and town meeting for approval.

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden