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Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
March 6, 2019

Present: Members: Lisa Hassler (chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, Amanda Haines, Bill Daley, Greg Antman. Town Archivist Deb Rich. Member of the press Tao Wolfe (The Enterprise).

Call to order: Chair Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes: The February minutes were unanimously approved as written.

2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up: Janice Tupper Williams appeared before the SHC to ask for support. She and an organization called Bridges for the Fallen would like to name the Route 6A bridge over Scorton Creek for her late husband, Navy Commander Francis T. Williams. The SHC voted to support her efforts.

Lisa announced that the Rhode Island Preservation Conference coming up on April 6.

The Mass Historical Commission wrote regarding 247 Old County Road, urging an updated inventory sheet as the property is for sale. Mass Historical believes that there are likely historical and prehistoric assets here. SHC believes that just the house and immediate land is for sale, and the surrounding acres are being set aside for conservation.

3. Public forum: none

4. Staff meeting: Sandwich History – Bill Daley. In March 1639 Plymouth Colony was getting too spread out, and all free men were expected to come to Plymouth to vote. This was no longer practical, so Plymouth Colony recognized the settlements as towns, and instead asked each town to send two representatives to Plymouth for voting.

Membership – Greg Antman has been officially been sworn in as a member of SHC.

Community Preservation Committee update – Town Manager Bud Dunham presented the budget to the CPC at their last meeting. In the next couple of years the budget will be tight, especially if the proposal to go to a 2% match instead of a 3% match passes in May. The CPC will be looking at smaller projects with budgets under a million dollars. In a few years, payments on a large loan will be ending which will allow more flexibility in the budget.

Amanda asked if the SHC plans any community education regarding the reduction from 3% to 2% match, and what that will mean for the town. The SHC has communicated with the town government on this issue, stating that we are not in favor of the match decrease because it will mean that the town is no longer eligible for second or third round funding from the state. The public doesn't understand the entire scope of the issue. Lisa will write a letter to the editor about the financial impact to the town listing all of the projects that have been accomplished with CPC money. She will also try to get this on social media, and possibly also on Sandwich Community TV.



5. Old business: The Preservation Award winners were approved by the Historic District Committee so the SHC can start sending out letters. Oak Crest Cove will be used for the awards ceremony on May 18 at 10:30 am. A press release will also be sent out once the date is confirmed.

Cedarville Cemetery – no update.

Sand Hill School Community Center – Jennifer reported that the historic photo enlargements are finished and hung. She appeared before the Sandwich Historic District Committee for the carved wooden sign for the exterior and an interpretive panel. The sign was approved but the interpretive panel was dismissed without prejudice.

Walking guide - Amanda gathered additional information since the last meeting. Increasing the number of pages to 100 increased the price to about \$10,000 for 500 copies. She abandoned this knowing that Greg has a different way of getting these designed. He also reached out to several Cape Cod printers. Amanda will send Greg information for an actual house with a historic and current photo information. He will do some same draft layouts.

Inventory list – no update

6. New Business: Bill Daley – no new historic markers this month.

Decaon Eldred House update – Lisa updated the SHC on the status of this project. The Board of Selectmen had previously decided to terminate the lease with Tom Keyes in executive session. At the last BOS meeting he disputed this decision. He states that he has spent tens of thousands of dollars on the house but that it is in much worse shape than he thought, which is why he isn't as far along as he hoped. Lisa invited him to come to the SHC meeting tonight but he declined. The BOS has requested material from him about what his plans are for the future and financial backup. The town has said they will inspect the building and Doug Lapp indicated that SHC members will be invited.

7. Public forum: none

8. Other business: Greenbriar Nature Center – they have decided to refund the CPC the \$20,000 they received for their jam kitchen project because they didn't want the required preservation restriction.

Deb Rich is actively looking for Thornton Burgess material for the Town Archives collection. She is also starting a collection of the illustrator Marise Fawsett who ran The Christmas Shop Cape Cod in East Sandwich.

SHC members discussed the possibility of the town archives to move to the first floor of the current Town Hall if the town offices move to the former Santander Bank building.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Madden