

Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission June 12, 2019

Present: Members: Lisa Hassler (chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, Bill Daley, Greg Antman, Amanda Haines, Ellen Carlson.

Call to order: Chair Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

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

2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up:

Dean Burgess will send us information about the history of his family and a novel he wrote based on this family history which will be donated to the Sandwich town archives.

Paul Tilton and Bill have been in touch about the mileage markers that were erected in 1920 as part of the 300th anniversary of Plymouth Colony. The one on the Bourne/Sandwich town line on Route 6A is in poor condition. The Commonwealth authorized Paul to make the repairs after the necessary paperwork is completed. Bill proposes that the town move the marker to a better location in front of the Sagamore Inn. A motion was approved to allow Bill to move forward with the paperwork after he contacts the Sagamore Inn and the Town of Bourne to let them know about this.

3. Public forum: none

4. Staff meeting: Sandwich History – Bill Daley. In June 1657 Christopher Holder arrived in Sandwich. He later became head of the Quakers in the new world. The Quakers were banned from Boston, and moved to Rhode Island where there were fewer restrictions. Holder eventually made his way to Sandwich where he was greeted by William Newland. Sandwich later becomes the center of Quakerism in Massachusetts. Sandwich has the oldest continuously operating United Society of Friends in the United States.

Membership – We have some interest from people who attended the Historic Preservation Awards ceremony. Lisa is following up with them.

Community Preservation Committee update – Bill Daley is our new representative and will begin attending meetings soon.

5. Old business:

Preservation Awards – are complete! The award ceremony was a success. Amanda will get all of the original application materials to Deb for the archives. The day following our award ceremony Bill attended the Chatham awards ceremony. They work with builders to recognize the importance of the history of houses to minimize requests for demolition. Bill proposes that he and Amanda discuss how they want to handle the awards next year and come back with recommendations.

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Sand Hill School Community Center – Jennifer reminded the SHC that she plans to do an “exhibit” of items found during the renovation by hanging these items inside SHSCC. She will work on this over the summer.

Cedarville Cemetery fence and Old Town Burial Ground gate – Jennifer and Kaethe met with Doug Lapp last week as he turned over this project before he leaves town government at the end of the month. Frank MacDonald will be the point person with the town from now on. The plan is to write the IFB over the summer, release it in the fall, have the work done over the winter, and reinstalled in the spring.

Walking tour booklet – Greg handed out a sample. He will meet with the printer next week. Bill suggests that we follow National Historic Districts such as Town Hall, Jarvesville, and Spring Hill. Smaller sections of these should be highlighted, such as Grove Street. Ellen suggested that we have a strategy session about this at the July meeting. We should work together with the Sandwich Chamber; Lisa will reach out. Suggest that we aim to distribute this in the spring.

Bill spoke about the first walking tour of the season last week offered between SHC and the Sandwich Glass Museum. He trained some other presenters. Bill believes that the Sandwich Glass Museum is not distributing the information as widely as they did in the past. SHC members discussed how to get the information out more widely.

6. New Business:

Newsletter – Should we have a quarterly newsletter? Contents could be - events, one story, and house marker update. Decided to table this and instead spend this effort on our Facebook page.

Donation of archives regarding Freeman Farm from Paul White – Lisa has this at her house and will bring it in this week.

SHC website – SHC members have reached out to former SHC chair Terry Blake to see if we can take over the website, but haven’t had a response. The Blakes have been so kind to keep paying for it for years. Bill will try again before our next meeting.

7. Public forum: none

8. Other business:

Ellen mentioned that the Cape Cod Canal Transportation Study draft by the Mass DOT and Army Corps has been released– they are proposing making a new exit from westbound Route 6 along the power lines to the intersection of Tupper Road and Route 130. This potentially impacts the town as this intersection is considered the “entrance” to town. She will send a link so everyone can take a look at it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Madden