

Sandwich Historical Commission

Long Range Goals – Discussion Document

Revised for February 3, 2021 – New additions from January 20, 2021 meeting appear in red.

DRAFT “Big Idea” Goals & Strategies -- Not in Priority Order

The “Whats” -- Goals

- Protect the historic character **and historic resources** of Sandwich
- Encourage economic development through historic preservation
- Protect historic resources from climate change, natural disasters and human-made disasters

The “Hows”/ Strategies

- Improve communication/ coordination among Sandwich Historical Commission, Sandwich Historic District Committee and other town Boards and Departments
- Increase public awareness of and support for Sandwich Historic Resources
- Increase preservation and documentation activities
- Identify/ Cultivate financial resources and support for historic preservation projects and programs in Sandwich

DRAFT -- All your Ideas for Activating the the “Hows”/ Strategies

Increase Public Awareness and Support

- Educate elected officials, town administrators and the public on the economic value of historic preservation
- Include diverse cultural and ethnic communities in historic preservation.
 - Encourage scholarship to better document and understand this history of peoples of color; and the relationship between early settlers and the Wampanoag.
 - Explore/ encourage scholarship of other facets of town history – maritime, agriculture (dairy, cranberries), immigrant communities (Italians, Finns, Norwegian); Quaker community
 - Community events and other forms of outreach to cultivate wider, more diverse audience
- Educate/ Engage local residents through Community Programs and Events – work with partners – FOSTA, Chamber, Town, CCC
 - Preservation Award
 - Holiday home and garden tours
 - Film screenings (“One Big Home”)
 - Author’s talks
 - Walking tours
 - Graveyard tours
 - Re-enactments
 - Workshops/Webinars (e.g. how to research your home’s history; preserving family photos and papers; genealogy)
 - Engagement with local schools (e.g. Realtor’s Historic Property Essay contest; field visits to town historic properties)
- Continue to Cultivate On-line presence
 - Build upon existing website and social media to build content and links to related organizations.
 - Develop a media plan – reach beyond traditional sources – include bloggers and others
 - Make historic maps and documents accessible in digital format (coordinate w FOSTA/ Town Archives)

Increase Preservation & Documentation

- Adopt By-laws/ Policies/ Guidelines
 - Demolition Delay
 - **Minimum maintenance bylaw (Demolition by Neglect)**
 - Zoning Restrictions (height, lot coverage, etc) that are not adequately addressed by the HDC in their reviews of Old Kings Highway historic district – might also be considered in other areas having clusters of historic structures/ landscapes outside of the Old King’s Highway District
 - Site Plan Design/ Review (tie into guidance on design already provided by CCC)
 - Signage pollution – need policies for review and coordination for the placement of signage/ standards & requirement for maintenance – if the town won’t assume responsibility.

- Addressing Climate Change and other hazards/ Sustainability
 - Need to ensure that historic resources are addressed in the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan – particularly the historic assets owned by the town.
 - Partner with others (Historic New England; History Above Water) to bring educational programming on sustainable practices (e.g. making historic homes more energy efficient; flood proofing, etc.) or more comprehensively coming to terms with the effects of climate change and sea level rise on historic communities.
 - Identify the “at risk” resources.
- Preservation Activity
 - Securing future of Deacon Eldred House
 - Continuing work on historic cemeteries (documentation? Planning & design? Bricks and mortar? -- all of the above)
- Educating property owners and realtors
 - Preservation best practices
 - Preservation resources (see increase public awareness & support; and cultivate financial resources)
- Documentation
 - Complete Form B (consider going back to CPC with proposal to repurpose funds originally approved for planning – another grant w MHC could be prepared for match)
 - Update survey of historic properties (structures and landscapes)

Cultivate Financial Resources

- Information Clearinghouse for Grants/ Funding Sources
 - Identify possible funding resources and make information available to the public
 - Massachusetts Historical Commission
 - Community Preservation Act
 - National Trust for Historic Preservation
 - Historic New England
 - Partners for Sacred Spaces
 - NPS Underrepresented Community Grant Program
 - Northeast Document Conservation Center
 - Cemetery Commissioners
- Consider Revenue Generating Opportunities for the Commission (to support its mission – will need to be very clear about purpose & intent)
 - Seek modest annual allocation from the town (through the town budget or via CPA funds)
 - Seek donations from local residents and businesses
 - Fees for walking tours and other events/programs
- Grants
 - Develop or seek funding to support grants for local residents/ businesses seeking to restore historic structures.
 - Develop or seek funding to support grants for local residents/ businesses seeking to flood-proof existing structures

Improve Communication/ Coordination

- Institute processes that better enable Sandwich Historical Commission to review and comment on proposals before the HDC or to work with town administration to develop and/or review historic preservation restrictions (e.g. Deacon Eldred lease or relevant CPC grants)
- **Distinguishing between Historical Society, Historical Commission, Historic District Committee so that their roles and responsibilities are clear to the public.**
- Work more closely with town administrators and the Board of Selectman in management/protection of town-owned historic structures
 - Deacon Eldred House
- Consider an expanded or more formally defined relationship w FOSTA – particularly in thinking about possible repurposing of Town Hall.