

**MINUTES
of the
Sandwich Historical Commission
January 6, 2016**

Present: Members: David Schrader, Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, Lisa Hassler, Greg Anderson (chair), Don Bayley. Members of the press: Tao Woolfe (The Enterprise), Paul Gately (The Broadsider)

Present for discussion about the possible Verizon cell tower: Betsy Mason from McLane Middleton, Brian Shea from McLane Middleton, Dave Bergeson from First Church of Christ, Susan Arena from EBI Consulting, Brandon Gill from SCG, Jose Xavier from HDG.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Greg Anderson, at 6:04 pm.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes:

Lisa Hassler moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 2, 2015 as written. Carolyn Crowell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up:

None.

3. Public Forum:

None.

4. Staff Meeting:

Digital archives: Brandon Carrico was not present to share his findings. This item will be moved to next month's agenda. Jennifer Madden reported that the town archivist position was advertised and the application deadline was December 31.

Cedarville Cemetery Fence: Jennifer has contacted five firms in Massachusetts that repair historic cast iron fencing and has sent them the section of the Cedarville Preservation document pertaining to the fence, as well as numerous photos. She will follow up with them for estimates for repair.

Jennifer intended to file a historic house marker application for 192 Main Street, but was unable to trace the deed earlier than 1857. Lisa offered to assist.

Potential Verizon cell phone tower in First Church steeple:

NOTE: David Schrader recused himself from this discussion as a member of the First Church council.

Conversation included the non-regulatory role the SHC plays in protecting historic assets in town, the current state of contract negotiations, and the desire of all parties to preserve the historic nature of the steeple and disguise the antenna and associated equipment as much as possible.

There was considerable discussion of the church's acceptance of \$207,000 from the CPA fund in 2007 for exterior work to the façade and steeple of the church. CPA historic preservation projects are supposed to follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation, but it is unclear if that happened. At that time a Preservation Restriction should have been signed with the Town, but neither party followed

through with the restriction. This restriction is currently being reviewed by the church. If the Preservation Restriction had been signed in 2007, it would have prevented the church from adding any additional utilities to the site.

No one present at this meeting could say what materials in the steeple are historic, if any historic materials were removed during the 2007 renovation and if they were, what types of materials they were replaced with, and if any historic materials will need to be removed to accommodate the Verizon antenna. During the conversation photos of the inside of the steeple were shown that seem to indicate that the sheathing of the spire is plywood, but no one present knew when it was installed. These are important questions for members of the SHC, and the committee recommended that the church follow up with the architect for a final report for the 2007 project. Verizon representatives were also asked for further information about whether they will need to disturb historic materials.

Discussion also included the fence around the equipment proposed to be located in back of the church, whether the fiberglass sheathing necessary for the antenna would wear differently from the surrounding wood, the power line to the church, and the location of the GPS antenna.

SHC members were unwilling to write a letter of support for the project to the Massachusetts Historical Commission until the questions about historic materials could be answered more completely.

5. New Business:

None.

6. Old Business:

On the agenda for next month's meeting will be filling Don Bayley's unexpired term.

David made a motion to adjourn at 7:13 pm and Lisa seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Madden