

Meeting Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission

Meeting Date: May 4, 2016

Present: Members, David Schrader, Greg Anderson, Carolyn Crowell, Jennifer Madden, Lisa Hassler, Bill Daley **Absent:** Phil Austin, Brandon Carrico

Guests: Jeffrey Thomas, Steve Patterson, Deb Rich

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by the Chair Greg Anderson

1. Review and Approval of Minutes

- David Schrader moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 2, 2016. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Madden. The motion carried, the minutes were approved.

2. Correspondence/ Statements/ Announcements/ Follow Up

- Carolyn shared the April 19, 2016 correspondence from the APCC (Association to Preserve Cape Cod) relative to the Canal Unit 3 Draft Environmental Impact Report. She shared the letter which was sent to Secretary Mathew Beaton of the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.
- Carolyn announced that Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission will hear an appeal of a Certificate of Appropriateness granted April 13 for NRG Energy to build a 1.5-megawatt solar array on land that was once part of the homestead of Edmund Freeman Sr. The appeal is filed by Bourne resident Jack MacDonald and the hearing will be held on May 17. The discussion surrounds the potential archeological value on the site of the Freeman barn (since destroyed by fire in the late 1980's). Greg Anderson stated that in the Fall, NRG offered to walk the site in the spring near the stone wall on the property to demonstrate construction measures to protect the stone wall identified as a concern of the SHC. Greg is reaching out to developers requesting the walk-through as well as a discussion about potential archeological value on the site of the barn.
- Greg raised the issue of ensuring that the public had a streamlined communication path to the SHC online and in person. Lisa suggested adding some email and phone numbers to the SHC website, which Greg will do in coordination with Don Bayley. Greg also said that a more concerted effort should be put into promoting the meetings and the value of public participation at these monthly meetings.

3. Public Forum

- Resident Jeffrey Thomas recommended regular office hours for a member of the SHC to speak with/take questions from/interact more with the public. It was noted that each monthly meeting affords the public two Public Forum sections on the agenda to do just that – solicit questions, comments, etc. from the public. The addition of Deb Rich as the archivist is another added value to public access to the archives.
- Lisa addressed the issue that significant projects such as the failed Town Meeting support for funding allocation for the Clark-Haddad Memorial Building could use more SHC efforts in order to clearly present and solicit support for such preservation endeavors.
- Greg mentioned that the SHC should be more creative in how to promote the access of the Commission, the matters it is focused on, and the good that it is doing to protect, preserve and promote historical assets in town. This speaks to public relations, online venues and other networking opportunities within the town.

4. Staff Meeting

- Jennifer Madden mentioned that she and Kaethe are reviewing a draft of the RFP for the upcoming cemetery projects voted in at Town Meeting. They are working to get the RFP to Doug Lapp in time to have it released to the public on or after July 1, 2016.
- Bill Daley submitted the application for 10 Summer Street for owner Phyllis Baker. David moved to approve the plaque for 10 Summer Street pending verification of David Burgess as the designated owner circa 1845. Lisa seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

5. Old Business

Lisa said she and Joanne Westerhouse will represent the SHC and the Sandwich Arts Alliance to meet with Patrick Ellis and Doug Lapp to discuss the Sand Hill School/Clark Haddad Building. Bill recommended that the SHC make strides to put the Clark-Haddad Memorial Building back on the burner for the fall Town Meeting and do so with more visibility to convey the intent and practices of the funding for maintenance and operations.

6. New Business

- Deb Rich, the town's new archivist, made her debut to the Commission and spent time introducing herself to the group, discussing her specialty in technology, and what her goals are in this new position. Her primary goal is to get as much materials in the Sandwich archives online and spoke to her past experiences in Quincy as examples of her ability to help do so. She is working on having historical assets and yearbooks online and will work with at least 3 college interns this summer to digitize obituaries. Her hours are five days per week. Bill Daley asked about how the online documents can interface with the SHC website. Deb spoke to her experience on the Thomas Crane Library in Quincy and said that product is similar to what she could see us doing in Sandwich. Greg will extend a "virtual" introduction of Deb to Don Bayley to make sure the two speak "tech talk". Brandon Carrico may also offer some help to Deb.
- Jeffrey Thomas expressed interest in joining the SHC and introduced himself to the group. Lisa made a motion that the Chair recommend to the Board of Selectmen to have Jeffrey Thomas as an alternate member of the Sandwich Historical Commission.

7. Public Forum

- Bill mentioned the extraordinary Talk of the Town Series that will be held at the Sandwich Glass Museum on May 18.
- He also discussed the physical enhancements planned to the park across the street from the Grist Mill. The funds for this revitalization comes from leftover funds from the Sandwich 375 in the amount of \$25,000. The Selectmen approved the spending and the enhancements which will include new benches, brass markers, new grass, plantings, etc. The project will be completed before the summer.
- Deb Rich mentioned a farewell reception for Barbara Gill on Saturday, May 14 from 2:00 - 3:30 at the Grange Hall.

8. Adjournment

- Jennifer moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Lisa and the motion carried adjourning the meeting.