

MINUTES of the Sandwich Historical Commission
August 3, 2016

Present: Members: David Schrader (Vice Chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, Lisa Hassler, Jeff Thomas, Bill Daley. Members of the public Joanne Westerhouse, Jack McDonald. Members of the press: Paul Gately (The Broadsider)

Call to order: David called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes: Bill Daley moved to approve as written the minutes of July 6, David seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up: David has exchanged additional emails with Jonathan Bourne, Descendants of Colonial Clergy, regarding a meeting he is planning in early November. David suggested the group consider the Daniel Webster to stay overnight. They are also interested in holding an event at First Church, but this may conflict with the church's annual Holiday Fair. If that occurs, David suggested the group look into West Parish in West Barnstable.

Bill Daley received an email from Zach, a reporter from *The Broadsider*. Zach inquired about the story behind the Ten Men from Saugus sign, he will do a story about it this Thursday. Bill talked to Barbara Gill who speculates that the sign was made in 1939 on the 300th anniversary. Bill passed this information along to Zach.

Lisa announced that the Massachusetts Preservation Conference is in September in Lowell. Lisa is going and is willing to carpool.

3. Public Forum:

Joanne Westerhouse updated the commission regarding the efforts of the group she has started called Friends of Clark-Haddad/Sand Hill School. Since the restoration of the building was not approved at May Town Meeting, the building has been in limbo. Joanne met with the selectmen last week to discuss her efforts toward restoring the building, and the selectmen were supportive of her ideas. The group she formed is looking to see if they can bring the cost down of the restoration, put a business plan together, talk to the groups who would be interested in renting the building, and doing community outreach. The tentative plan is to develop a moderately priced place to rent at about \$25 per hour. The selectmen voted to bring a warrant about the building at the next Town Meeting with a simple majority required, rather than the 2/3 vote required that was mistakenly noted on the last Town Meeting Warrant.

A discussion followed about the role of the SHC in this issue and the period to restore the building to if funding became available. In December 2015 the SHC voted to support either of two historic versions of the exterior of the building (either as a school or as the American Legion). To restore the building to its appearance as a school with two front doors, this would mean taking out the 1930s kitchen (a feature that would be attractive to groups looking to rent the space). Bill will gather information about how many years each use had (Sand Hill School or American Legion). The commission agreed that the focus should be on getting the funding approved at the next Town Meeting, then deal with the look of the building later since both versions cost the same amount of money.

The Deacon Eldred House was also discussed at the Selectman's Meeting. They voted to write an RFP to lease the building which would become a warrant at the next Town Meeting. Lisa suggested that if the town decides to rent the Deacon Eldred House, the SHC should consider doing some fundraising to support the building. Lisa mentioned that if this ends up not going anywhere, next year the SHC could apply for restoration funds from the Massachusetts Most Endangered Historic Resources Program.

Jack McDonald was present for a follow-up discussion after the commission's walk-through of the NRG project last month. The archaeological survey of the Edmund Freeman farm can go ahead once NRG has received their approved building permit, but it is unclear whether they have submitted an application yet. UMass Boston was available in June, but since NRG didn't have a building permit UMass couldn't come. UMass submitted an application to Mass Historic to do the dig, and Mass Historic responded that they need a lot of information about the site during the dig, and would like the area of survey to be larger.

Since this process is taking longer than anticipated, discussion involved around communicating with NRG and asking if we can revise our agreement so that we could go ahead with the survey next summer. Jack will talk to Greg about how the two of them can proceed with NRG and ask if they are doing a 106 Review with their project. Bill will talk to Bud about pending permits.

4. Staff Meeting: None

5. New Business: None

6. Old Business: None

Carolyn made a motion to adjourn, Bill seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Madden