

# MINUTES of the Sandwich Historical Commission

## January 4, 2017

**Present:** Members: Greg Anderson (chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, Bill Daley, Lisa Hassler, David Schrader. Also Deb Rich, Sandwich Archivist.

**Call to order:** Greg called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

1. **Review and Approval of Minutes:** Jennifer Madden noted that Ivan Myjer's name was spelled incorrectly in the December minutes. Bill Daley moved to approve the minutes of December 7, 2016 as amended. Jennifer Madden seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2. **Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up:**

None

3. **Public Forum:**

None

4. **Staff Meeting:**

Bill Daley asked if there was any follow-up as to the input the SHC has put forward on the design of the Sand Hill School. Lisa stated that she had heard of none yet. David Schrader noted Lisa will be very attentive to the types of materials used on the project, and Bill added the style of the design as well. Bill also addressed the naming of the building and that the SHC has already voted that the name should be Sand Hill versus Clark-Haddad in order to avoid any confusion with the VFW building in town. Also, he knows of a gentleman in town who intends to put forth a motion at town meeting to change the name to the Sand Hill Community Center and stated that at some point the Commission should weigh in on this initiative. David agreed that the Sand Hill School should be the name as it predates the lives of Mr. Clark and Mr. Haddad. Lisa agreed and suggested a plaque of some sort be installed there to recognize these two men. Jennifer offered to help create, write and design a permanent "exhibit label" as would be used in a museum. Greg noted that the SHC has already stated that the name should be Sand Hill and the Commission will continue to support this renaming.

Bill asked to make mention of the 2017 Talk of the Town Speaker Series and announced the four events that are coming up this year. This year marks the 4<sup>th</sup> year of the series.

5. **Old Business:**

Carolyn Crowell mentioned that during our review of the NRG solar project at the Freeman Homestead last year, there was discussion about where the Bourne/Sandwich town line sits. She noted a book that she found which contains maps of the property 1901 and that it clearly delineates the town line as running right down the center of Freeman Lane. She said it also shows the witness post is in the east stone wall on the Sandwich side of the line. Carolyn said she informed the Bourne Town Planner of this map and will be sending it to her. She will also be sending it to Ray Long at NRG. Deb Rich mentioned that this map is available online.

## 6. **New Business:**

Bill addressed a historical marker review for 4 Liberty Street. He noted that Kaethe Maguire did a study on Liberty Street and David said that "some of the nicest people live there" (he is a resident). Liberty Street was originally the Nathaniel Nye Farm and Bill stated that archival records show that the home was moved from an unknown location to Liberty Street. This makes it difficult to track the original homeowner and date. As a result, he suggested use a circa date 1840 with no name on the marker. Lisa suggested that more investigation be done as it relates to seeing the inside of the house that might identify any architectural features that could narrow down the date. She said she would like to go along as well to help identify the style. No vote was called on this marker.

Bill Burbank from the TSB (Trustees of Sandwich Beaches) was called to address the Commission following his request to speak at the meeting on the issue of beach erosion in Sandwich. TSB is reaching out to the three boards who they feel interface with this issue the most; the Historical Commission, the Planning Board, and the Conservation Commission. Resident Laura Wing, the Chairperson of the TSB, also spoke and asked the Commission about any historical concerns it might have relative to erosion. Carolyn provided background by noting the jetty's in town were first put on the beaches off Spring Hill in the 1940's to prevent erosion. She believes the town appropriated money for the beaches in the 50's, but apparently, it was never spent. She mentioned a timber sticking out of a dune on those beaches would have floated ashore before the canal was built. Lisa Hassler said that erosion is the number one threat of our historic properties in town citing that many of the said properties are well back from the ocean but are still in the flood zone. Town Hall is even in a flood zone. When the canal dredging was planned recently, a 106 review was conducted and the SHC requested to be an advising partner in that review. She stated that anytime there is any work done that required Federal permitting, a 106 review is required to make sure historic properties, cultural resources, etc. are not impacted. She also noted that during recent erosion, some archeological resources (brick work) was exposed further amplifying that it's not just the homes themselves that are important, but also what's in the ground as well. Even if Town neck was built in the 1950's, it now qualifies for being part of the National Historic Register. Bill asked about the incremental rollout of replenishment and if her group has taken a position on where the first piece will go. She stated they are relying on the Woods Hole group to determine such details. Greg Anderson said the Commission will take this under advisement and supports this effort.

John Cullity, President of the Nye Family Association was invited to speak to the Commission about the 95 foot swale installed on the property and how its installation and subsequent discussion of a second swale, is impacting the property. Greg Anderson asked him to address the status of the issue and how the SHC can help. He began his presentation with the history of the homestead, its property, the neighborhood and historic significance. John gave a detailed account of the situation dating back to the installation of the swale in late 2014. He stated how the swale was a problem at the property on many levels, particularly in the areas of pedestrian access, loss of parking, and other logistical issues.

John stated that he is working with the town on ways to fix this problem and remove the swale and is hoping to get support from the SHC. Bill noted the contributions John Cullity's family has made in order to make the Homestead what it is today – without funding from anyone other than the Family Association - and is happy to know Bud is involved in this issue. He also stated that the Association is one of the few museums in town that contributes Payment In Lieu Of Taxes (PILOT). Bill stated that this is a fairness issue and that an invested group such as the Nye's should be owed some good will after all they have done to be such a vital part of our community. David stated that the Nye Homestead is an embodiment of a much larger tradition of the Nye family in Sandwich. He said that 25 Nye's were in Revolutionary service, which is incredible. Lisa asked why this DPW project didn't go before the HDC if it wasn't a simple repaving. Resident Bill Burbank was recognized by the Chair and stated that this is a scenic route and anything structurally changed requires a Planning Board review. He stated that "the town has been reluctant to do this because of the lack of respect between the planning effort and the leadership of our community." Lisa called for a more proactive way for preservation and review, especially if it doesn't need to go before the HDC. She suggested that in instances like this the SHC be consulted with to see if there are any concerns instead of getting involved after the fact. Burbank stated the importance of the Planning Board's role in situation like this, particularly as it relates to work done on scenic routes. Lisa suggested that the Chair write a letter to the board of Selectmen and the town administration as to the SHC support as well as encouragement of discussion of more thought of the historical implications to projects such as this. David concurred, and stated how it seems wrong that a highway project like this comes as a surprise to the stakeholders abutting the project. Bill said that the Nye Family Association needs to broaden its base of invested supporters. Greg said that he will draft a letter in support to the interested parties on this issue.

7. **Public Forum:** Resident Peter Thomas said that he was aware of survey information on the Freeman Farm that is as recent as the 50's.

8. **Other business not anticipated by the chair:** None

David made a motion to adjourn, Jennifer seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Greg Anderson