

Sandwich Historical Commission  
Minutes of April 6, 2011, 7 p.m. meeting  
@ Macknight Archives Room, Sandwich Public Library

In attendance: Terry Blake, Ellen Carlson, Carolyn Crowell, Bill Daley, Jon Shaw,  
Nancy Stetson, Kate Bavelock, Karen Juros & Janet Pinault

Guests: Dave Wheelock, John Juros, Chris Richards & Peter Dubay

Absent: Jennifer Madden & Garrett Gowan

Meeting opened at 7 p.m. by chair Bill Daley who then had everyone introduce themselves for the benefit of our guests and newer members.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the March meeting were unanimously approved after a motion to accept same was made by Jon Shaw & seconded by Ellen Carlson.

2. **Clark-Haddad building:** Bill Daley then turned the meeting over to Peter Dubay & Chris Richards, both from the Sandwich Chamber of Commerce, for their presentation on the Clark-Haddad building. Peter discussed the chamber's proposal to move the building to the chamber's Exit 2, Rt. 130 location. The chamber would then historically renovate it for office use and as a visitor's center. Chris Richards indicated the chamber felt this proposal would be a "win-win" situation as it would ultimately save & restore a town-owned building which the town is already considering disposing of. Peter said the Exit 2 property encompasses about 3 acres and should ultimately provide parking for about 25 vehicles. There would be a financial campaign hosted by the chamber and SCIC to raise funds for the project, according to Peter. Carolyn queried about moving the building vs. leaving it where it is. She also questioned the duplication of genealogical & historical access by the Chamber and the town library. Peter responded that the chamber's building would be an entry point or gateway to the town for visitors and would not conflict with the town archives at the library. Ellen added that it is quite common to move buildings on Cape Cod. She felt we should consider the political guidelines. Bill added that the committee would not be in a position tonight to provide the chamber with a response either way. He asked about the cost of moving the building and restoring it. Peter indicated the preliminary estimate for moving was \$150K. The restoration would probably come close to the cost of a new building but restoration would save an old historical building. Jon also had concerns about moving an historical building, especially

one that has been consistently used over the years. Bill reflected that moving any historical building is a last resort option over demolition. Kate indicated it was not the Chamber's intent to be in conflict with the library over historical documents. Rather, she wanted to provide visitors to the town with basic historical information when they stopped in. Bill asked for Dave's input. Dave felt the best option to save the building might be for the committee to consider the Chamber's proposal. Dave thought it would be great for the building to be used again and restored to maintain its integrity. Ellen liked the idea that it would be used as a visitor's center and that the chamber would be moving it to save it. Dave asked what would happen to the underlying property after the building was moved. Bill indicated that question could be addressed at tomorrow night's BOS meeting. Peter said primary support for the proposal would be from the business community. Ellen then stated the committee needed time to digest everything, so Bill will put the matter on next month's agenda. Nancy added one final comment that such a restored historic building instead of the current little shack at Exit 2 would represent a great way for visitors to be introduced to Sandwich.

**3. Local Comprehensive Plan and Priorities:** Ellen said that to date she has heard back from only 5 members relative to her request for input on the Historic Resources Action Plan of May 2009 she previously distributed. She then distributed her draft list based upon same marked with "x's" for items "of interest" and red diamonds for items of "high importance." She wanted to complete the exercise by having all committee members provide her with their input so she can deconstruct and restructure the information in a different way. It was agreed that 2 weeks from today (by April 20<sup>th</sup>) all members that haven't yet responded to Ellen will do so, minimally providing her with their top 5 items of importance and items they felt should be removed from the list. Ellen will then prepare a final report for the June meeting. Terry stated she was initially uncomfortable responding to the request in that she felt she didn't have sufficient background to do so. Karen concurred, indicating she sought information from the committee's website and found what appeared to be erroneous information therein, including, in her opinion, improper references to MGL Chapter 40C. Ellen felt Chapter 40C was a correct reference. Bill will contact Dorr Fox on the matter and perhaps have Mr. Fox address same at a future meeting.

**4. Demolition by Neglect:** Bill believes the town needs a local ordinance to address the issue of demolition by neglect. He contacted the building inspector and others for input. The building inspector told Bill he was limited to state safety provisions. However, he did say he also had the obligation for the safety of fire fighters, so neglected buildings will be allowed to "go up" rather than risk the safety of firemen trying to save them. Bill referenced Nantucket's affirmative maintenance bylaw which he would be reviewing. There was committee support for Bill to continue his efforts on this matter.

5. **Historical Markers:** Bill presented information on 171 Main Street (the 1843 Samuel H. Allyne House) and on 6 Cross Streetj (the circa 1853 George Pickering Nye House). He indicated research had been done on both and that markers were appropriate for both. The committee unanimously approved of signage for these 2 buildings. Terry presented information on 172 Rt. 6A (the 1850 Thomas H. Fuller House) also indicating research had been done and that a marker was appropriate. The committee unanimously approved signage for this property. After query, Bill said there are now 101 historically marked buildings in town.

6. **CPC Approval of Cemetery Stones & Signage:** Jon Shaw said CPC is recommending the request for \$10K for preserving, restoring & protecting gravestones at Old Town Burying Ground. The funds will be matched by the selectmen from the Cemetery Fund, making \$20K available. Jon indicated the CPC is also recommending \$16K for preparing & installing signage for National Register Historic Districts in Sandwich. Both recommendations are on the May 2<sup>nd</sup> warrant. If passed, Paul White will make the signs & the DPW will install. Jon provided CPC with a map. The shape of the signs will be oval with Essex Green paint as the background.

7. **Website:** Terry reported she is in the process of updating the committee's website, with the help of her husband Warren and son Matt. She is gathering photos of works in progress to be included in the update. Jon added that CPC will be having its own committee website shortly.

8. **Other Business:** Jon said that on the gravestone master plan there are still spelling errors; however, the final product has already been accepted, knowing of this small quirk. Bill reminded the committee of the Cape-Wide Historic Preservation Workshop being held tomorrow at the Harwich Community Center at 11 a.m. Bill then referenced his April 5<sup>th</sup> email to the committee about the Board of Selectmen's request to meet with us in Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. tomorrow to talk about the future of the Deacon Eldred house. Karen, Terry, Jon & Ellen said they would attend the meeting with Bill.

Time being of the essence, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. upon motion made by Jon and seconded by Nancy.