

Sandwich Historical Commission
Wednesday, 5 January 2011
MacKnight Archives Room

Attending: Chair Daley, Carolyn Crowell, Jennifer Madden; and Associate Members Garrett Gowen, Karen Juros, Janet Pinault, Terry Blake, Palmer True, Kate Bavelock

Absent: Jonathan Shaw, Eleanor Sterling, Ellen Carlson, Nancy Rubin Stuart

The meeting was called at 3:09 PM. Quorum was not established, however Chair Daley decided to press on with the agenda items which did not require a vote, in order to update those attending on a number of issues concerning the commission.

1. **Approval of the Minutes:** Tabled due to lack of quorum.
2. **Historic Markers:** No vote was taken on new applications; however Bill made a note regarding Nell Gould, the sign maker. Nell normally makes the signs in her unheated basement, and following an attempt to make them in her dining room, she has asked if any new signs can be delayed until April. Since she makes the signs at such a low cost, Bill thought it was only fair to agree.
3. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Sandwich Quilt:** Chair Daley informed the commission that the Sandwich Quilt had been officially acquired by the library and is to be housed in the archive room. The Glass Museum has said it will display the quilt in an exhibit entitled "A Woman's Work in Never Done". Bill has spoken with the donor's neighbor, who has said that the donor will be raveling to Sandwich in the summer to see the quilt on display.

According to research by Bill and Barbara Gill, most of the work on the quilt was completed in 1858 or 1859 by young women aged ten to seventeen years old. Barbara researched the individuals named on each of the squares and identified them. Three of them were the daughters of Captain Freeman and his wife Tiliah. They moved from Sandwich as adults and relocated to Walpole, Middleboro and Yarmouthport respectively and this explains why these towns are on the "Sandwich Quilt". The latest square on the quilt dates to the 1930s, and was completed by Adelaide Otis, one of the original sisters who would have been in her advanced years. Barbara's research is very extensive, with a short biography of each name listed on the quilt, including the dates of their births, deaths, and marriages. It can be found in the archives.
 - b. **15 Canary Street:** Bill wanted to bring the commission up to date on the item, in which a Mrs. Anderson wanted to demolish a historic residence at 15 Canary Street. Bill spoke against the demolition at a hearing of the Historic District Committee; the request was denied. Following the hearing, the owner filed an appeal to the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District Commission which has been rescheduled from 11 January to 1 February. The proposed grounds for appeal include economic hardship, the lack of

consideration given to the new home itself, and the lack of proper attention paid by committee members to reports given. Bill does not consider these to be valid reasons for appeal. Karen asked what the commission's involvement was; Bill responded it is due to the commission's mission statement, which is to "protect and preserve". There is no formal involvement. Any support at the 1 February hearing would be welcome.

- c. **Ivan Myjer's Progress Report:** Jennifer and Bill have looked at Ivan's recently submitted report, and have found that he is apace with his goal of fixing all inconsistencies within his catalog of the Old Town Cemetery's gravestones. He is currently producing a final product.
- d. **Cemetery Stone Restoration:** In 2008, the historical commission received \$60,000 from the CPA to fund Ivan Myjer's study of the cemetery headstones. In his report, Ivan's recommendations for stone repairs fall into three categories of urgency. In order to fund the repairs, Jennifer and former member Kaethe Maguire had previously entreated the Cemetery Commission for \$10,000 from the cemetery's trust fund of \$21,000. The CPA has unanimously approved a matching \$10,000 in funds.

The \$10,000 CPA grant will have to eventually appear on the Town Warrant to be voted upon at Town Meeting. Bill is expecting to be back next year asking for an additional \$10,000 to match the remaining \$11,000 in the cemetery account.

- 4. **Volunteer to Write Commission's Annual Report:** Bill asked for a volunteer to write the commission's piece for the annual Town Report. The report is about one full page of printed text, and would be due on 30 January. Seeing no volunteers, Bill will be writing the report himself.
- 5. **New Business:**
 - a. **Carolyn's Pictures:** Carolyn has been keeping a visual record of the decomposition of the Old Poor Barn on Crowell Farm. The roof is falling in and the building is infested with beetles. The age of the barn is unknown; however when the land was acquired by the Town in 1823, the barn was already standing, so it is at least one hundred years old. Any restoration would be exceptionally costly, and there would be almost no return from use of the barn.

Carolyn has also been watching a large timber, which until recently was jutting out from a dune on Town Neck Beach. She showed pictures of the timber as the sands had receded further and further, revealing more of the timber. The timber has since vanished, following the recent snowstorm. The timber was quite large, with an iron pin which Carolyn measured as four inches long and one inch in diameter. She noted that it was not corroded or rusted at all, which is strange. She speculates that, given its size, it could be a house timber. She has contacted the Center for Coastal Studies to see if they might be able to help her identify the timber and how it may have ended up in the dunes. It could have ended up in the Old Harbor Creek.

- b. **2014 Canal Centennial:** Bill asked Kate to update the commission on preparations for the Cape Cod Canal's upcoming centennial. Kate mentioned a meeting between the Canal Centennial Committee and a Rear Admiral, who agreed to berthing ships locally to draw interest. They will not be tall ships; however they will parade through the Canal. The committee will now be dividing into subcommittees in order to begin getting work done. There are only thirty months left!!

Kate also discussed plans for grant applications meant to fund a boardwalk, which would link Sandwich Village with Brady's Island, as well as some restoration work on the Island itself. A grant application to the County was denied, however a CPA grant is being pursued. Any grant money would be mainly used for clearing up the overgrown island; any construction would require more money. Carolyn asked Kate where the boardwalk would be built. Kate said it was proposed to go behind the police station and then on to Brady's Island. She noted that the plans date back to 1988.

c.

- d. **Home Tour Proceeds:** Kate presented a check to the commission for \$538. 269 tickets were sold for the Home Tours, which is more than last year. There was a round of applause.

- e. **Freeman Ave:** Carolyn noted that a test pit on the site of proposed renovations to a home on Freeman Ave have shown fourteen feet of clay. The pit is near the alleged location of the glass factory brick yard, the actual location of which has never been accurately designated. Carolyn suggested that the clay may help pinpoint the brick yard's location, and also calls the accuracy of the topographical maps into question.

- f. **1857 Town Map:** Former member Kaethe Maguire is looking to get grant money to restore the 1857 map of Sandwich. She has made no progress. Bill noted that Town Clerk Taylor White is planning on having a restoration company look at the map. The map includes the names of the streets, and boasts outlines of the houses and lists the owners' names. Bill asked if it would be possible to sell copies, and how small the map could be reduced before it became illegible. Kate suggested that small versions would be profitable among tourists researching genealogy.

- 6. **Meeting Time:** Bill discussed how quorum among regular members had been barely made in past months, and mentioned that he has asked Taylor how many committees meet during the day as opposed to meeting in the evening. There are seventeen appointed Town committees, twelve of which meet in the evenings, and five, including the historical commission, which meet during the day. Bill suggested that, at next month's meeting, the movement of the meeting time to the evening should be discussed so that more members could regularly attend.

Carolyn asked about how the hours of the library could interfere. Karen pointed out that the Finance Committee meets until 9 PM, so the time could probably be worked out. Janet noted that it would depend upon which evening. Palmer noted that evenings would be more difficult for him, and early evening or late afternoon would probably be better.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM. No votes were taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Garrett Gowen