

# Meeting Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission

**Meeting Date: June 1, 2016**

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

**Guests:** Jack McDonald, Steve Patterson, Deb Rich, Don and Judy Stainbrook, Paul Gately (Broadsider), Tao Woolfe (Enterprise)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM by the Chair Greg Anderson

## **1. Review and Approval of Minutes**

Bill Daley moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 4, 2016. The motion was seconded by Jennifer Madden. The motion carried, the minutes were approved.

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

Greg stated that correspondence to the Commission was relative to the NRG solar farm discussion and asked that we bundle the communication into the Staff Meeting section of the meeting.

## **3. Public Forum**

The Stainbrooks stated that they are grateful for Jack McDonald and his efforts to conduct the proper due diligence on the Freeman site dig and preservation attempts. They said they are glad this discussion is being addressed by the Commission as the Historic District Committee had unfortunately “skimmed over” the issue.

Steve Patterson, who identified himself as a descendant of the Freeman family shared the opinions of the Stainbrooks and said that he thought Barbara Gill (former archivist) was a descendant as well and that a Friends of the Freeman Farm group could be created.

Don Stainbrook asked the group if there has been any expressed interest in the Freeman/NRG project from academic groups or other parties. Greg confirmed that he is not aware of any.

## **4. Staff Meeting**

Greg Anderson started the Freeman Farm discussion by stating that the Sandwich Historical Commission is very much invested in the preservation of the Farm and is committed to having a seat at the table to discuss any historical impact this project has on the property. He stated that NRG, specifically Ray Long who is the VP of Government Affairs for the company, has expressed strong interest in working with the Commission and will arrange for him and his colleague Tom Atkins to walk the site with the Commission

on the morning of June 14. It will be an opportunity to have NRG demonstrate how it will protect the Freeman wall as well as manage the archeological dig. Greg was clear that this meeting is hosted by NRG and it is not the SHC's decision as to who can attend. The Stainbrooks and Mr. Patterson both expressed interest in attending. Greg said he would reach out to Ray Long and let him know of the interest in those attending beyond the members of the SHC.

Jim McDonald was invited to the meeting by Greg Anderson to speak to the SHC about his interest in the preservation of the Freeman Farm and identify ways in which the SHC could support preservation efforts. He spoke about his growing up years and personal interest in the property, research into the records in the Sandwich archives on the site and family, and how his love of the property brought him to learn more about the plan of the solar farm. He described his understanding of the connection between NRG's need for a building permit in order to move forward with the dig. He discussed UMASS student interest in conducting the dig itself. Jeff Thomas asked for clarification on the need for a permit in order to begin the dig (NRG preference or requirement) and Jim indicated that his understanding is that NRG's contract states that they need a building permit before any such archeological work can be done. Jennifer Madden and Bill agreed that a permit is likely and there will be no problem with doing a dig. Separately, Bill inquired about the timeframe of the dig, and Jim stated that it could be a yearlong project. He indicated that NRG mentioned to him that they might name the property the Edward Freeman Solar Farm. Jim also stated that he is interested in gaining support from the SHC on Freeman Lane – who owns it? Controls it? Deb Rich asked about the depth of the panel footing, and it was assumed to be a minimum of 4' deep. Greg completed the discussion by thanking Jim for his attendance and help and conveyed that the June 14 walk-through of the site will help answer further questions from the SHC.

## **5. Old Business**

Upon Carolyn Crowell's interest in knowing any updates on the restroom/Mill Creek Park across the street from Town Hall, Bill said renovations and enhancements to the property are underway and that it is slated to be completed by Father's Day.

## **6. New Business**

Bill introduced and presented a request for a historical marker on 1 Freeman Street on behalf of Kara and Caleb Anderson. Extensive research proved out that Edward Ball, a former glass cutter, was the first owner in 1846. Carolyn moved to approve the historical marker at 1 Freeman Street naming Edward Ball as the original owner in 1846. The motion was seconded by Jennifer and the motion carried.

Bill raised the discussion about an option to utilize a different product for all historical markers. Currently, a wood product with four coats of paint is used and said the sign maker presented him with an option to use a PVC product instead. The group discussed how using a plastic product on a wooden structure felt out of place and the wood product is best.

Finally, Bill made the group aware of the Grist Mill and Hoxie House hours of operations. Effective on May 27, both locations will be open from 11:00-4:30 daily. Bill noted that the start time each day is an

hour later, and is that the best for visitors. Discussion about tourist and traffic trends show that the 11:00 start makes sense. The discussion was also raised as it relates to the Recreation Department now overseeing the two historical assets. Is this the right structure? Jeff stated that the assets are run by people who do not have a preservation or historical commitment and is there a better department who can oversee the operation. Jennifer stated that the town doesn't employ people with this commitment and therefore the Recreation Department is perhaps the only option (if not the Selectman as was the case prior). Greg asked that Bill Daley informally stay in contact with Guy Boucher (the head of the Rec Department) to ensure that an open dialogue about the historical importance of these assets.

#### **7. Public Forum**

The Stainbrook's again stated that they are very appreciative of Jim McDonald's efforts.

#### **8. Adjournment**

Jennifer moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting of June 1, 2016 at 7:17PM. The motion was seconded by Carolyn and the motion carried adjourning the meeting.

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Gregory W. Anderson