

AUG 31 2018

Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission

April 4, 2018

12 H 30 M P M
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Present: Members: Greg Anderson (vice-chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, David Schrader, Bill Daley, Amanda Haines, Barbara Nadler. Member of the press: Paul Gately (The Broadside).

Call to order: Co-chair Greg Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM in the absence of Chair Lisa Hassler.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes: The February 7 minutes will be reviewed at the May meeting.

2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up: none

3. Public forum: – Bill Burbank of the Trustees of Sandwich Beaches (TSB) spoke to the Commission about the importance of paying attention to the beach erosion issues as they relate to the historic districts of Jarvesville, Town Hall Square, and Spring Hill. He suggested that the Commission begin discussions with various state and local representatives who may be able to make creative suggestions about paths forward. The people he mentioned included Jim Igoe, President of Historic Massachusetts, and Brona Simons, State Archaeologist and Preservation Officer. Dave DeConto and Brona will be meeting sometime next month. TSB is also interested in making sure that navigable waterways are maintained through Mill Creek, Dock Creek, and Salt Marsh Creeks. Waterways Chapter 91 is a possible way to achieve this. Greg reaffirmed his belief that a Commission member should be present at TSB meetings to keep lines of communication open.

4. Staff meeting: The discussion of the 2018 SHC Plan will be held off until the May meeting, as will the CPC update.

5. Old business: The update on progress of the Sand Hill School construction will be discussed in May.

The town plans to propose the possibility of selling or leasing the Wing School at the May Town Meeting. A draft warrant article was distributed, along with a map of the school showing the construction dates of different parts of the building, and an email thread between Lisa Hassler and Doug Lapp discussing a possible preservation restriction for the 1927 portion of the building. The town and SHC are in agreement that the exterior of the 1927 building should be preserved. Discussions are continuing about whether to attach a preservation restriction for this 1927 building, and whether a preservation restriction might scare off any potential buyers. The SHC felt that the word "façade" in section three of the article may be misinterpreted as only the section of the building including the front door. Commission members suggest adding the sentence "The façade is defined as all of original exterior of the 1927 building, which is currently exposed and not encumbered by additions."

It was also suggested that item number 3 include the provision that the buyer or lessee be required to "retain and maintain" the 1927 addition, to prevent the possibility that after an agreement is reached, no maintenance is completed and the building falls into disrepair. Greg will pass these suggestions to Lisa to communicate with Bud and Doug for their consideration.



6. New Business: Historical markers were approved for 37 Water Street "Gustavus Howland, 1852" and 2 Georges Rock Road "Philip Hinckley, c. 1845."

Bill Daley encouraged membership in the Sandwich Town Hall Preservation Trust for \$15/year.

Carolyn saw notification in the newspaper that Old Harbor will be dredged soon. In 1979 she found posts from the original Mill Creek Footbridge which stretched from the back of the glass factory over the marsh to the dunes (a predecessor of today's boardwalk). She took notes on the posts over the years and these are in a folder at the Sandwich Town Archives called "Mill Creek Footbridge." The Commission members voted to authorize the chair, in consultation with Carolyn, to write a letter to Dave DeConto to request the location of the old footbridge be identified during the dredging. A copy of the letter will be sent to Laura Wing, Chair of the Trustees of Sandwich Beaches.

Historic New England will be hosting three upcoming workshops on the Cape including Introduction to Preservation Restrictions; Caring for Municipal, Museum and other non-profit historic properties; and Design Review Concepts, Classes and Issues.

Bill Daley has been working on redesigning the town seal with Doug Amidon to more correctly represent the eagle heads that were on the three ships. A new seal has been designed and Bill is working with Doug Lapp on its formal adoption. Once it is official, Bill will have a new town flag made to hang in the Hall of Flags at the Massachusetts State House.

Amanda Haines would like the SHC to consider working on demolition delay. The Sandwich Historic District Committee is working on guidelines for property owners to determine if their property is historically significant, and help the owners find a resolution other than demolition. An ideal solution would have this go back to Town Meeting and an official ordinance with an 18-month demolition delay specified. She would also like to explore demolition by neglect. Greg will connect Amanda and Lisa on this issue, as well as initiating conversations with SHDC.

7. Public Forum: Bill Burbank asked Amanda for an update about the derelict boat house on Shawme Pond. She has been talking to the owner but he has declined any offers of assistance.

Bill Burbank pointed out that the coastal debris at the house just next to the Sand Hill School was extreme in the latest storm.

Bill Daley suggests that we organize a walking tour of the Cedarville cemetery. The date for this will be discussed at the May meeting.

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: none

The meeting with adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Madden