

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF SANDWICH

AUG 31 2018

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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission  
May 2, 2018**

**Present:** Members: Lisa Hassler (chair), Greg Anderson (vice-chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, David Schrader, Amanda Haines, Ellen Carlson, Deb Rich.

**Call to order:** Chair Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

**1. Review and Approval of Minutes:** The April 4 minutes were approved as amended. The February 7 meeting minutes will be reviewed at the June meeting.

**2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up:** Bill Burbank from the Trustees of Sandwich Beaches spoke about the letter he wrote to the Commission. He is interested in working with Brona Simon, State Archaeologist, to do an archaeological survey in Mill Creek, Dock Creek, and Salt Marsh Creek.

Samantha Hendy wrote to the SHC expressing support for the preservation of the 1927 section of the Wing School. She would advocate that the building to be retained by the town, the exterior be preserved, and interior to remain the same stating that the town may need to use the building as a school again in the future. In the meantime she feels there are many potential uses for the building, and the rest of the property could be a park. She suggests crowdfunding and applying for grants to renovate the building, and she is willing to help with social media and marketing for this effort.

**3. Public forum:** – Bill Burbank spoke about the importance of the Wing School for the upcoming Town Meeting.

**4. Staff meeting:** Greg Anderson led the discussion of the draft 2018 SHC Plan which has five key areas – fundraising, events, public relations, collaboration in preservation, and board resiliency. He envisions SHC being more proactive and less reactive using elements of this plan. Ellen suggested that a mission statement and core principles would be helpful as we move forward with elements of the plan. She and Greg will draft these for the upcoming meeting. The SHC agreed that each element of the plan will appear as an item on future agendas. To get events going, Jennifer will come to the June meeting with proposed dates for a Cedarville Cemetery tour, and proposed format for the tour.

The last CPC meeting was cancelled so there was no update.

**5. Old business:** Lisa provided an update on the progress of the Sand Hill School construction. The roof is almost done and they have started to install the crest line. She brought in some items that have been found during construction including a girl's dress, a cooking oil can, and glass bottles. Jennifer and Deb will work on suggestions for getting the dress framed to be hung in the building when it is finished.

Jennifer reported that Westmill Preservation is working on the last few gravestones at Cedarville Cemetery and they will be done before the end of the month.



Lisa provided an update about the Wing School. The article on the Town Meeting warrant next week will ask the town for permission to accept RFPs for the building. At the April meeting the SHC made suggestions for changes to the wording of the warrant regarding the 1927 building, and Lisa took these suggestions to the town. The town changed the article to include the wording "The Town will retain a historic preservation restriction requiring that all or a portion of the exterior façade of the 1927 building be retained." Since the school is a contributing member in a national historic district, any potential projects will be able to make use of grants and historic preservation tax credits. If any viable proposals are received, the town will need to appear before town meeting again, and at that time there will be more information about a historic preservation deed restriction. The SHC will also want to look at any viable proposal to see what the plans are for the 1927 building. David moved that the SHC chair speak at Town Meeting in support of this warrant article, Ellen seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. New Business:** Ellen spoke about the approaching 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote, which was ratified in August 1920; Massachusetts ratified it in June 1919. This is an opportunity to explore Sandwich's experience with women's suffrage. Ellen suggested several types of programs the SHC could present. There are national and state movements to recognize this anniversary including The Woman's Suffrage Coalition of Massachusetts [www.suffrage100ma.org](http://www.suffrage100ma.org).

Amanda is interested in making sure that the SHC has a regular presence at Sandwich Historic District Committee meetings, and in particular having the SHC have the opportunity to weigh in on applications for historic properties, particularly when demolition is proposed. SHC members were supportive, and have been particularly concerned about demolition requests. Discussion focused on the options when a homeowner hires a structural engineer who states that a building is unsafe. Fencing is a temporary option until other solutions besides demolition are considered, but the town does not often choose this option. Lisa is planning to schedule a meeting with Doug Lapp, the building inspector, and Bill Collins to discuss this issue.

Amanda is interested in starting a preservation awards program in town. Chatham has an established program that we will look at. The members were supportive and framework for the program will be discussed at a future meeting.

Greg Anderson, Amanda Haines, and Deb Rich are working together on a House Detectives TV program with Sandwich Community Television. It will feature the history of a home in disrepair in town with historical research and input from the property owner. The first one will be filmed on May 18.

**7. Public Forum:** Bill Burbank asked for support in his write-in campaign for a seat on the Planning Board.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Madden