

AUG 31 2018

Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
June 6, 2018

12 H 30 M P M
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Present: Members: Lisa Hassler (chair), Jennifer Madden, Carolyn Crowell, David Schrader, Amanda Haines, Ellen Carlson, Barbara Nadler. Sandwich Town Archivist Deb Rich. Member of the public Bill Burbank. Member of the press Paul Gately (The Broadsider).

Call to order: Chair Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes: The May meeting minutes were unanimously approved as written.

2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up: SHC received an inquiry via Facebook about any surviving houses associated with Edmund Freeman.

Jennifer and Deb followed up on the request from Lisa at the last meeting to look into framing of the child's dress which was found during the renovation of the Sand Hill School. Each had contacted a framer for advice. Lisa will take photographs of the dress for Amanda to send to her friend who is a textile expert, then will deliver the dress to Jennifer for freezing (to kill any insects or eggs that may be present), then Jennifer and Deb will work on getting estimates for the framing.

3. Public forum: – none.

4. Staff meeting: Ellen led the members through her draft goals that SHC members would like to achieve through the strategic plan. Members agreed that the proposed goals were appropriate, with some members feeling that perhaps there is too much focus on historic buildings to the exclusion of other types of historic resources. A motion passed unanimously to have this item on the next meeting agenda in coordination with a discussion of the strategic plan (which was not on the agenda for this meeting) to make sure they mesh well together.

Ellen gave a CPC meeting update. Kaethe Maguire had appeared before the CPC on behalf of Friends of the Sandwich Town Archives (FOSTA) requesting money for digitizing the *Sandwich Observer* newspaper which was published in the 1840s and 1850s. The CPC members encouraged her to come back before them in the fall with a bigger and bolder proposal for digitization. A larger proposal will need to go before Town Meeting. FOSTA will be looking for SHC support at that time.

David Schrader is leaving his post as a regular member, and Brandon Carrico is moving so he will no longer be an alternate. Amanda Haines was nominated to become a full member and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Old business: Lisa provided a construction update on the Sand Hill Community Center. Eversource took down a tree for safety reasons that the neighbors wished not to be removed. The construction company has started with interior and exterior paint. They expect to be complete in late June or early July. Lisa reminded Jennifer of her offer to draft a brief history with photos of the building to be printed on a panel installed inside the building.



Jennifer reported that Westmill Preservation poured foundations for the last few gravestones that they are repairing at Cedarville Cemetery. They are awaiting the delivery of repair slate and custom bases, and expect to have the project complete soon. To get the outreach part of the Strategic Plan going, Jennifer suggested some dates for a public tour of Cedarville. It was decided that Sunday, August 26 at 1:00 is a good time. David Schrader will research and talk about the notable people and families that are buried there, and Jennifer will highlight the process of gravestone restoration at Cedarville.

SHC members discussed a draft of potential activities to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment. Members were supportive of all ideas. Ellen will reach out to STEM and high school history teachers about the possibility of a unit in their classes on this topic, and also to Town Clerk Taylor White to see if he is interested in cooperating on voter education for graduating seniors.

Amanda reported that the owner of 18 State Street has requested permission from the HDC to demolish the house. Paul Gately of the Sandwich Broudsider stated that he believes that the owner will ask for a delay of his application.

Amanda led the SHC in a discussion of her draft plan for a Sandwich Preservation Awards program. She researched similar programs in other towns and strived to make the process simple so as to welcome as many applications as possible. She suggests partnering with other local history organizations. The awards would probably take the form of plaques and be presented at a public event. SHC members should come prepared to comment on the bracketed areas of the proposal at the next meeting. If supported by the SHC at that time, Amanda will proceed to talking to the HDC.

6. New Business: Amanda led a discussion about a proposal for adaptive reuse that she and her husband have proposed for the Cornelius Tobey house. They propose buying the property from the town, and making the first floor available to cultural/arts/historical organizations for their use. Amanda and her husband would also be responsible for the restoration of the building. A robust discussion followed about whether the SHC can support this proposal at this time. SHC members agree that the current arrangements for the building are not working, that there is something better that could be done with it, and that this plan is a step in the right direction and are interested in exploring it further. It was agreed that Lisa (and perhaps others) would go to the BOS meeting on June 28 to express SHC concerns about the maintenance of the building.

The agenda item about demolition by neglect was pushed out to the August meeting.

7. Public Forum: Bill Burbank stated his opinion that the SHC was too negative in its actions during this meeting, and that the members missed an opportunity to “step on the accelerator.”

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Madden