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Amended

**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission  
August 1, 2018**

**Present:** Members: Lisa Hassler (chair), Jennifer Madden, Bill Daley, Amanda Haines. Members of the public Bill Burbank and George Ponce. Members of the press Tao Wolfe (The Sandwich Enterprise) and Paul Gately (The Broadside).

**Call to order:** Chair Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

**1. Review and Approval of Minutes:** The July minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**2. Correspondence / Statements / Announcements / Follow Up:** Bill mentioned the article in the Sandwich Enterprise about a letter sent from the town to the tenant of the Deacon Eldred House detailing their concerns about the maintenance of the property. Based on comments at the July SHC meeting, Lisa wrote a letter to the town detailing our concerns. She will send a copy of this letter to members of the SHC.

Lisa received an email from Olivia Burns, a reporter at the Cape Cod Times who will be writing a series of articles about the oldest homes on the Cape. Bill Daley will contact her.

Bill Daley met with a newspaper reporter from the Sandwich Enterprise who will be doing a series of stories about Sandwich during the American Revolution.

Jennifer reported she received a call from David Wheelock saying he has been contacted by several people with concerns about the "House Detectives" TV series being done by Amanda Haines and Greg Anderson. There has been positive feedback as well. It appears that there is some confusion among the public that this is a project of the Sandwich Historical Commission, when it is not. Lisa will talk to Greg and Sandwich Community Television about making that distinction more clear.

**3. Public forum:** George Ponce spoke in this role as service officer from Post 188. They are on track to dedicate their Vietnam monument in Eaton Square on Veterans Day. They are also interested in adding a wooden plaque in Town Hall listing the names of Sandwich residents who served during the Vietnam era 1955-1975. The Post will supply all materials and there will be no cost to the town. If they get approval from the town they would like to have it dedicated in March 2019. Discussions are ongoing about where to place it inside Town Hall. They anticipate listing about 125 names. This will be on the agenda for September.

Bill Burbank asked about a small suitcase in the archives marked "C.S. Batchelder."

**4. Staff meeting:** Discussion about whether SHC should change its meeting date and time. The Commission decided to continue to meet at the library on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00.

**5. Old business:**



Jennifer visited Amidon Woodcarving and they will start working on a plan and a price for the exterior sign for the Sand Hill School Community Center. Jennifer also sent the Sand Hill School Community Center proposal distributed at the last meeting to Doug Lapp.

Jennifer has not heard anything more about the one remaining gravestone to be fixed at Cedarville Cemetery. Kaethe Maguire has continued to work on a potential CPC application for the cast iron fence in the front of the cemetery. We will discuss this application at the September meeting. Jennifer needs to postpone the tour of Cedarville she offered to do with David Schrader on August 26. Hopefully they will be able to reschedule in the fall.

Amanda presented her Preservation Awards idea to the Sandwich Historic District Committee at their last meeting. She indicated that they may not dedicate a person to the project, but will definitely lend their support. A discussion followed about whether Amanda is our official representative to the HDC. Lisa indicated that she has informed the SHC that Amanda is there as our representative and is monitoring their agendas for items of concern to the SHC.

Following up on previous concerns by SHC members about houses that are threatened by demolition by neglect, Amanda told the members about a state program she has recently learned of called The Abandoned Housing Initiative through the office of the Attorney General. Abandoned houses suitable for this program are brought to the attention of the AG's office. They complete a title search, contact the owner and ask them to address code violations, and if the owner is not willing to cooperate, the AG's office goes through the courts to appoint a receiver to take a lien to address the violations. Once the issues are fixed, the owner can pay off the lien, or the property goes into foreclosure and is sold. Amanda will reach out to the AG's office to see if the SHC could host a workshop about this program, and invite the town building inspector and health inspector as well. Other possible invitees are Chris Skelly and members of other historical commissions. Bourne and Barnstable are also looking into the possibilities of this program.

The \$500 that used to be in the town's budget for the SHC is no longer in existence. We have about \$175 in our account. The town agreed to cover the \$100 annual fee to keep the SHC website active. Lisa also asked if the town can compensate Don Bayley for the update work he does for this website.

#### **6. New Business:**

Bill Daley received a letter from a descendant of previous town resident Titus Riorden. Bill will meet with her when she visits in September and gather any information she has for the town archives files.

Amanda is following up on the idea Bill brought to our last meeting about hosting a seminar for realtors regarding the unique issues of selling historic homes. Amanda is awaiting information from the person who runs this program in Providence. This will be on the September agenda. Bill mentioned the scholarship competition available to high school students who do research on a historic house managed by local realtor Chris Chalke.

Public Forum: Bill Burbank apologized for his behavior at the last SHC meeting.

Bill Daley had some additional ideas about how to follow up with town boards in regards to threatened historic buildings. He suggests following up with the Zoning Board of Appeals to see where they are with someone living in the garage at the Seth Nye house. He also suggested the possibility of meeting with the Conservation Commission about the Wesson Boat House property on Shawme Pond. If the Conservation Commission agrees that nothing new could be built on that property, perhaps they could contact the owner (who seems to believe that his lot is buildable). Bill Burbank is on the Conservation Commission's agenda on August 15 to discuss the fence on the boat house property being in the public right-of-way. Bill Daley will also attend that meeting.

We will invite the town's new building inspector Brandon Bridges to our October meeting.

Jennifer asked about getting a replacement marker for the Wing house at Heritage Museums & Gardens due to flaking paint. Lisa suggests that we consider increasing the price of the markers.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Madden