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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
February 3, 2021**

SHC Members present via Zoom: Maria Nye, Joanne Richardson, Ellen Carlson, Brenda Kelly, Matt Schimmel, Jennifer Madden, Greg Antman, Lisa Hassler, Carolyn Crowell, Bill Daley. **Members of the public present via Zoom:** Julia Blakely, Leanne Drake, Tao Woolfe, Mark Romanowicz, Doug Kelleher, Kevin Klauer

Call to order: Maria Nye called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

1. Review and approval of the minutes: The January minutes were approved as written.

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow up: Diane from Town Hall sent Maria a note indicating there is a member of the public who is interested in joining the SHC. Maria will contact her.

Carolyn mentioned that the Mass Historical Commission likes to know who our current members are. Maria will send the list of members to them.

3. Public forum: none

4. Staff meeting: none

5. Old business: Ellen thanks those that participated for the January 20 meeting regarding the SHC Long Range Goals. These goals and strategies will guide Lisa as she represents the SHC on the Long-Range Comprehensive Plan committee for the town. The second half of the document takes the great ideas that people came up with and matches them with the appropriate strategies. Ellen sees this as a living document, and when we think of a good idea, we can add it. The motion to adopt these as our primary goals and strategies motion passed unanimously.

Since the last meeting Ellen researched what types of programs might be available to support private owners of historic properties. Other states and municipalities have creative programs for this regarding taxes and revolving loans. Ellen will continue to research and bring the ideas back to the group.

Julia reached out to a number of towns in Massachusetts and elsewhere to compile additional information about Demolition by Neglect. Tax credits are the most common; most towns in Massachusetts have a demo by delay bylaw. She is continuing to collect responses. Are there ways we can collaborate regionally or with other organizations or companies? Maria will invite the building inspector to a future meeting so we can better understand what tools are already in place. Matt suggests framing this as a public safety/health issue in dense neighborhoods.

6. New business:

Representatives from First Church of Christ, Mark Romanowicz, Doug Kelleher, and Kevin Klauer, were online to discuss their application for CPC funding for repairs to the church. The church is requesting \$296,400 from the CPC to repair the sanctuary, and belfry and steeple support. They had originally requested an additional \$206,008 for work to the exterior façade, but have removed that line from the request at this time.



Bill asked that SHC members who are current members of First Church identify themselves to eliminate any possible conflict of interest. Jennifer is the only member of both the church and the SHC. After a brief discussion, it was decided that she could listen to the presentation tonight, and Maria will check with Taylor White before the next meeting to see if she can vote on this matter in the future.

The church received CPC funding in 2007, but the required preservation restriction was never completed. This is in process now, and it is with Mass Historical Commission for approval. The church intends to sign this when it is complete, regardless of whether their current request for funding is approved.

When preservation restrictions are in place, the Sandwich Historical Commission acts as the lien holder and is responsible for reviewing any changes to the structure to be sure that they conform to the Secretary of the Interior's standards for historic preservation.

Mark Romanowicz reviewed the façade, belfry, and capital deterioration, and their suggested repairs. The church recommends removing historic wood and replacing it with PVC. The capitals would be replicated with PVC from a mold taken from the originals.

SHC members had questions about the material choices and made suggestions about other materials to consider, and other funding sources that might be tapped. Additional research will be completed about whether there are any new materials that meet the Secretary of the Interior's standards 5 and 6. There was also discussion about whether the pending preservation restriction covers interior renovations or just exterior renovations.

All agreed that a site visit to the church to see the current conditions and the proposed materials will be scheduled when the weather is more cooperative.

Following the presentation by Mark Romanowicz, the Zoom meeting was accidentally ended about 7:45 pm. It was not possible to restart the meeting, so the agenda item regarding historic house markers was not discussed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden