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Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission

April 6, 2022

SHC Members present in person: Lisa Hassler (LH-Chair), Mahlon Peterson (MP), Julia Blakely (JB), Brenda Kelly (BK), Matt Schimmel (MS), Bill Daley (BD), Rich Claytor (RC). **Guests in attendance:** Bill Collins, Mary Foley (SHDC), and Sandwich Enterprise.

Call to Order: Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM

1. **Review and approval of minutes:** Motion to approve minutes of March 2, 2022 by BK, Seconded by MP, passed unanimously.
2. **Correspondence/Statements/Announcements:** Bill Collins submitted a comment about a tree impacting the stone wall at the Old Town Burial Ground – Lisa to write a letter to Michael Geiler, Cemetery Agent. The Jarvesville Historic District sign on Route 6A is rusted and fallen off. RC pulled the sign out of the ditch and agreed to deliver it to Paul Tilton at DPW.
3. **Public Forum:** Guest Bill Collins stated that he was here to report on the demolition of 13 Church Street that did not in his opinion follow the protocols and obtain approval through the Sandwich Old King's Highway Historic District Committee (SHDC) – see more discussion under New Business.
4. **Staff Meeting:** BD reported that this would be his last meeting as an Alternate Member.
5. **New Business:**
 - a. **13 Church Street Demolition:** LH had provided email correspondence between her and the Building Commissioner earlier in the day, asking several questions that were in turn answered by the Building Commissioner. Guest Mary Foley also attended the meeting to discuss her involvement in the demolition and reported that she had attended a site visit on April 4, 2022 at the request of the Building Commissioner. The Commission discussed how we could make sure these demolitions don't keep occurring; two notable comments/suggestions were 1) to have a Town employee dedicated to the SHDC with more resources than the current Office Manager and 2) that the SHDC and SHC could write a joint letter to the Town to consider providing more resources to the membership of the SHDC to help them with their deliberations, which is apparently routine in other Cape towns within the OKHHD.
 - b. **Deacon Eldred House:** LH reported that she was on the interview/selection committee for the Town's RFP. The entities submitted proposals and there was a clear winner in terms of the scoring, but LH did not want to announce the apparent winner before the Town completed their formal evaluation.
 - c. **Marker Applications:** BD presented two applications for historical markers. For 20 Church Street, the recommendation was for the marker to read "James M. Parks, c 1850." This was approved unanimously. For 35 Spring Meadow Drive, the first owner is unknown, but research suggests the house dates to as early as 1770, the recommendation was for the marker to just have a date "c. 1770." This was approved unanimously.
 - d. **Treasury Report:** BD reported that SHC fund of \$627 is part of the Town funds but held in a separate account/statement. These are from proceeds from the sale of the historical markers and surplus funds from the walking tours BD conducted.



- e. **25 Water Street:** This house is again on the agenda for the SHDC for demolition. Based on the condition of the materials the owner does not feel the building can be saved. The SHC decided not to take a position on the application.

6. Old Business:

- a. MP is working with students on the Wing Fort House history project and suggested that the existing history museums in Sandwich should have links to other museums, including private and town-owned properties (e.g, Nye Family Foundation, Thornton Burgess Society/Green Brier Sandwich Town Hall, Hoxie House and Grist Mill, Forestdale School)
- b. BK stated work is progressing on the Master Historic Property List update