

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF SANDWICH

SEP 13 2021

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## Sandwich Historical Commission Meeting

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**Members present via Zoom:** Maria Nye (Chair), Lisa Hassler (LH), Matt Schimmel (MS), Brenda Kelly (BK), Greg Antman (GA), Carolyn Crowell (CC), **Alternates:** Bill Daley (BD), Mary Lynch (ML), Ellen Carlson (EC), Julia Blakely (JB), Rich Claytor (RC). **Public:** Tao Woolfe, Ralph Vitacco (RV).

**Call to order:** Maria Nye called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Approval of minutes:** LH made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. BK seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Correspondence/Statements:** The Chair reminded the commission of some historic preservation workshops in the near future. BD reported that the Conservation Commission had reached out to him to see if the members would be interested in providing some historical background information on certain conversations lands. The Conservation Commission is developing digital/mobile walking guides for several conservation trails and would like to include some historical background. BD agreed to work the Conservation Commission on this request. BD also reported that Ed Ruggles, a descendant of Timothy Ruggles, reached out to him and provided him with some additional information about Timothy Ruggles (who was a Sandwich loyalist, attorney, and innkeeper of the Newcomb Tavern).

Selectman Dave Sampson reached out to LH to discuss ideas the commission may have for the Deacon Eldred House. LH suggested a site visit to monitor compliance with the existing state preservation. The town owns the building, and RV stated they are considering removing the preservation restriction on the inside to make it potentially easier to sell and preserve. RV explained that the town is also considering narrowing the public easement on the exterior grounds that allows access to Shawme Pond. Members agreed there would still be sufficient access for the public to the pond. BK suggested the commission invite an individual who shared some ideas for the property to the next meeting.

**Public Forum:** None

**Staff meeting:** None

**Old Business:** None

**Historic House Markers:** BD discussed 2 applications.



39 Jarves Street is rare  $\frac{3}{4}$  colonial, based on BD's research the land was given to Williams B. Woodward from Deming Jarves, circa 1857. LH motioned to approve a marker for "William B. Woodward, Circa 1857" for 39 Jarves Street. BK seconded, unanimously approved.

1 School Street – BD stated that former town archivist Barbara Gil had researched this home, which was in the Fish family. BD's research showed that William and Sarah Perry (Fish) purchased the home in 1837. EC suggested adding "Fish" to the marker to reflect the history of the name. LH made a motion to approve the marker for 1 School Street to read "William & Sarah Fish Perry, 1837." MS seconded, unanimously approved.

**VSF Grant:** BD received news that the Visitor Services Board approved the commission's application for \$2,890 (\$200 for website hosting fees, \$1,200 stipend for the webmaster, \$500 license fees for the mobile walking tours, and \$990 to replace some historic home markers). The commission congratulated BD on all his hard work. BK made a motion to approve a payment of \$1,200 to Don Bayley, the website administrator. LH seconded, unanimously approved.

**Demolition by Neglect:** JB shared an event a RI non-profit is hosting with a session on demolition by neglect. JB also shared a draft zoning bylaw in Chatham that gives their Zoning Board of Appeals the authority to modify certain dimensional standards on existing lots in return for the preservation of historic structures. The town may consider trying to pass a demolition by neglect bylaw in the future. EC finalized a list outlining state programs with financing options (tax credits and low-interest loans) for historic preservation. EC believes any funding options/program would have to be a regional effort.

Some discussion ensued about demolition delay vs demolition by neglect. LH stated that demo delay bylaws only apply to structures outside of the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District. RC suggested that we reach out to the regional committee's lawyer to clarify this and see if there is a possibility of applying demo delay bylaws to historic districts. Members agreed that a demo delay bylaw might be an easier bylaw to try to pass instead of a demolition by neglect bylaw.

**First Church of Christ site visit:** MS shared that Mark Romanowicz emailed him to schedule a site visit to review some of the materials they are considering using to repair the exterior of the church. MS will schedule a site visit for the commission.

**Sandwich Historic District Committee:** LH shared the discussion the SHDC had on suggested guidelines for reviewing demolitions of historic structures. Based on their last meeting, LH believes that the committee is misinterpreting the Massachusetts Historical Bulletin and believes that they do not have the authority to go inside a structure as part of a site visit. LH has reached out the Cape Cod Commission historic preservation specialist and the attorney for the regional historic district committee to clarify. MS and LH discussed that the SHDC will likely vote to rescind the suggested guidelines that were unanimously passed

by the SHDC in April 2019. MS said he has been reaching out to some of the individual SHDC members to offer our assistance and educate them on the difficulties our commission faces in advocating for preservation and intervening earlier in the process. BK stated that she would try to reach out to the chair of the SHDC to improve the working relationship between the SHDC and HC.

**New Business:** LH heard from Protect Our Past who is interested in doing a short film on 18 State Street as part of a larger documentary on historic preservation efforts. The commission would need to contribute \$2,000. MS suggested that this may be good funding proposal for the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), who attended the March meeting asking for local projects they could fund. BD said he'd reach out to the representative, and also offer another project to fund about documenting the gravesites of Sandwich residents that served in the American Revolution. The local DAR are looking for small projects to fund, so either of these ideas would be appropriate.