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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
July 7, 2021**

SHC Members present via Zoom: Maria Nye, Matt Schimmel, Jennifer Madden, Rich Claytor, Lisa Hassler, Julia Blakely, Brenda Kelly

Members of the public present via Zoom: Katie Goers (*Sandwich Enterprise*), Ralph Vitacco, John Burroughs, Mark Romanowicz, Kevin Klauer

Call to order: Maria Nye called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

A motion to move Lisa Hassler from a full member to an alternate member and move Julia Blakely from an alternate member to a full member was unanimously approved.

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

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow up:

Maria announced that no full member or alternate member wishes to be chair, and this is her last meeting in that role. After discussion, Lisa Hassler agreed to serve as interim chair until next May. To make this possible, a motion was unanimously approved to move Maria Nye from a full member to an alternate member, and move Lisa Hassler from an alternate member to a full member. A subsequent motion passed unanimously to appoint Lisa Hassler as the interim chair until May 2022.

Matt received an email from Randy Harelson of the Quaker Meetinghouse. They recently received CPA funding for exterior restoration and they wish to be on the SHC agenda for August. All full members of the SHC will need to sign the preservation restriction regarding this work before the August meeting. There is interest among SHC members in seeing the work that was completed. We will discuss this with the Quaker Meetinghouse representatives at the August meeting.

Lisa Hassler and Jennifer Madden received an email from Jason Bowns of Connecticut who asked for information about Sandwich's policies for preserving the endangered Sandplain *Gerardia* plant in the town cemeteries. Lisa checked with David DeConto before the meeting and he said that the program is run by MassWildlife through the Natural Heritage Endangered Species Program. None of the SHC members are aware of this. Rich will check into it.

3. Public Forum: – John Burroughs was present at the meeting. He is a Scout working on his Citizenship in the Community badge which requires attendance at public meetings.

4. Old business:

Julia presented two draft zoning bylaws regarding demolition by neglect and a tax incentive for owners of historic buildings to repair those buildings. At our last meeting Ralph suggested that any draft bylaws be put before the Planning Board no later than November. Everyone will look at these and come ready to comment at the August meeting. The hope is to get on the October agenda for the Planning Board. If these ideas become accepted zoning bylaws, then their enforcement moves to the building inspector. Jennifer reported that the historic photo identifications for the enlargement at the Sand Hill School are complete and installed.



There was a historic marker on the agenda but Bill Daley was not present at the meeting.

Mark Romanowicz and Kevin Klauer were present at the meeting to represent First Church. Mark reported that since his last appearance at a SHC meeting the church learned that the timber supporting the steeple is failing. Steel supports are currently being added inside the walls of the church to support the weight of the steeple.

The church is planning to replace the wood siding on the main structure of the church with Accoya treated lumber. This material carries a 25-year warranty if it is touching the ground, and a 50-year warranty if it is not touching the ground. This material adheres to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards of replacing "like-for like" so no approval is needed from the SHC. Likewise, the church is proposing wood repairs and repainting the gable roof and the belfry gable, and repairing the asphalt shingle roof over the belfry. No approval is needed from the SHC for these repairs.

First Church proposes replacing the belfry siding and louvers with PVC material. These materials are so far above the ground that no one will be able to distinguish PVC from wood. First Church also proposes replacing the four column capitals on the front of the church with molded polymer gypsum. First Church representatives and SHC members also discussed using PVC to replace the fronts of the columns at a later date. SHC members were not enthusiastic about using PVC for this use since the material would be low enough for people to distinguish from wood.

The preservation restriction for the church that should have been in place since the church received CPA funds in 2007 is currently with the state for review. Church representatives are proceeding as if the restriction is already in place.

A motion to approve replacing the First Church belfry siding and louvers with PVC, and replacing the column capitals with molded polymer gypsum replicas while retaining the carved wooden capital in the best condition for future study, passed unanimously. Jennifer recused herself from this vote because she is a current member of First Church.

5. New business: none

6. Public Forum: none

7. Other business not anticipated by the chair: Brenda mentioned that the boardwalk is on the agenda for the Sandwich Historic District Committee on July 14. SHC members revisited our previous discussions regarding the boardwalk not qualifying as a historic structure since it has been replaced many times over the years, therefore we don't have any standing with this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden