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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
September 1, 2021**

SHC Members present: Rich Claytor, Greg Antman, Jennifer Madden, Lisa Hassler, Julia Blakely, Brenda Kelly, Mary Lynch, Bill Daley

Call to order: Lisa Hassler called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

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

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow up:

Lisa thanked Bill Daley who recently appeared in a video about the history of the boardwalk produced by the Town of Sandwich.

Julia Blakely is now an official member of the SHC. A motion to elect her as the Vice Chair of the SHC passed unanimously.

3. Public Forum: – None

4. Staff meeting: Bill Daley presented this month's Sandwich History about the Town Hall. The building was built in 1834, the year after Massachusetts passed a referendum stating that government business may not be conducted in meetinghouses, as had been the custom previous to 1833. This makes the Sandwich Town Hall the oldest continually operating Town Hall in the Commonwealth, if not the entire country. It was in this building that soldiers enlisted for the Civil War and World War I. The last wolf to be killed in Sandwich was suspended from the columns in front as the townspeople celebrated. The balcony was added in 1880, and the stage in 1914. When the building was renovated ten years ago, ramps and an elevator were added for access, and the decorative ceiling paint was restored.

5. New business: Bill Daley presented two historic markers for approval. **5 School Street** – this home was originally located on Peters Pond as the home of Thomas H. Tobey. It was moved to Water Street in the early 1800s for the home of Watson Tobey. It was moved again to School Street by Levi Bourne Nye as a residence for his widowed mother soon after 1834. Architectural historian David Wheelock looked at the building and determined that it was originally built about 1740. The motion for the plaque to read "Thomas H. Tobey, built c. 1740 at Peters Pond, moved here c. 1835" passed unanimously.

247 Old County Road – This home was examined in 1979 by an architectural historian who concluded in his report that the house was built in the first quarter of the eighteenth century by Zachariah Jenkins. Marise Fawsett lived here in the 1930s and operated her "Old County Press" from the barn. The motion for the plaque to read "Zachariah Jenkins c. 1700" passed unanimously.

Funding for Sandwich Historical Commission – The SHC will be asking the Board of Selectmen to resume allocating funding to the SHC as part of the town budget. Lisa drafted a letter which she asked for comments. The SHC has spent over \$5,000 last year, either in grant or personal funds. Lisa will add to her letter a list of the documented expenses.

6. Old business: Julia led a discussion of a draft demolition delay bylaw. Stockbridge passed a demo delay zoning bylaw which seems to be more effective than others passed in the state. The goal of passing such a bylaw in Sandwich would be to preserve the historic character of the town by preserving as many historic buildings as possible. This would be achieved through the bylaw by requiring that anyone who wants to demolish a building that is over 100 years old and is in one of the Sandwich National Register Historic Districts (and that building as been determined as preferably preserved by the Sandwich Historical Commission) would need to first market that property with a licensed real estate agent at fair market value for 12 months to try and find a buyer who will preserve the property. The Planning Board would oversee this process and the Building Commissioner would be the enforcement agent.

Julia will use the Stockbridge bylaw as a model and make changes discussed by the SHC, then we will meet again on Monday, September 13 at 6:00pm to review the draft bylaw. The goal is to get a draft to the Planning Board in the fall so it can work its way through the necessary steps to get on the Town Meeting warrant in May.

7. Public forum: none

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: Bill Daley called the members attention to a recent New England Historical Society article about the Revolutionary War history in Sandwich. This was posted on the SHC Facebook page.

Brenda Kelly met with the owners of 124 Main Street and they are indeed restoring the home after years of neglect.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden