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## Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission September 7, 2022

**SHC members present:** Julia Blakely (chair), Jennifer Madden, Matt Schimmel, Joanne Richardson, Lisa Hassler, Brenda Kelley

**SHC members not present:** Rich Claytor, Mary Lynch, June Murphy, Mahlon Peterson

**Call to order:** Julia Blakely called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**1. Review and approval of minutes:** The August minutes were approved as amended.

**2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow Up:** Former SHC member Bill Daley contacted the Sandwich DPW regarding damaged signs marking the entrances to historic districts. Paul Tilton indicated in an email that the sign bases are no longer under warranty. Matt will research the similar Glasstown Cultural District signs which were installed at about the same time but are holding up better.

Lisa mentioned that garden area around the signs marking the glass factory site at Jarves and Factory were planted and have been tended all summer. She suggests that SHC send a thank you note to those who made this happen.

A note was received from Kaethe Maguire indicating that CPA funds are available for private homes, as long as the homeowners are willing to place a restriction on deed which lasts in perpetuity. No one in Sandwich has been willing to do this so far, and it would be a difficult sell with the Community Preservation Committee.

**3. Public forum:** none

**4. Staff meeting:** Julia attended the Preservation Massachusetts webinar "Storytelling in Preservation." Her takeaways were to understand the needs of the audience, and to include personal stories whenever possible. Along these lines, Julia encouraged all SHC members to post on the SHC Facebook page.

**5. New business:** Julia submitted a SHC statement regarding the cultural landscape of the Boardwalk. The Army Corps has acknowledged the SHC as a consulting partner. Their review will begin soon.

Kaethe Maguire emailed a suggestion for an Eagle Scout project – a survey of the burying grounds in town noting which gravestones need repair. Jennifer will forward to Scout leaders, and will ask Don to add the previous survey and map of the Old Town Burying Ground is available through the SHC website.

Group to identify solutions for demolitions – At the last meeting of the Sandwich Historic District Committee they issued an invitation to members of the SHC to form a sub-committee to discuss demolitions and make recommendations regarding changes for the future so the events at 13 Church Street do not happen again. Staff members in the town's Planning Department will also provide support. Brenda and Rich are the two members on this sub-committee.



Certified Local Government – Lisa is working to get Sandwich listed as a Certified Local Government with the National Park Service. This national program provides funding possibilities and training for historical commissions and historic district committees. Sandwich already meets most of the requirements in that both bodies hold open meetings, take and post minutes, write annual reports, etc. The two remaining actions are that the chairs of the SHC and SHDC would need to write a joint annual report, and the town administration would need to approve the application to be certified.

**6. Old Business:** (NOTE: as a member of the Sandwich Historic District Committee Lisa Hassler recused herself from this conversation). Julia and Lisa attended the meeting last week of the Old King's Highway Regional Historic District regarding the appeal of the demolition and proposed rebuild of 13 Church Street. The board unanimously approved the demolition, but told the owner he needed to resubmit his plan for a new house. It is not known when he will resubmit this plan, and when the SHDC meeting will be to discuss it. If the meeting falls before the next SHC meeting, members are urged to attend the SHDC meeting as individuals to share our concerns regarding scale, streetscape, style, siting, etc. Any new house will be required to be built to FEMA flood standards.

Update on MACRIS dates vs. town dates on historic properties - Brenda has gone through the 800 Sandwich historical assets listed on MACRIS and compared the dates of construction with the construction dates listed in town records. She has found errors in both sets of records. She has asked the town to correct four records. There are another 17 that require additional research. Brenda will send this list to SHC members to gather additional information.

Historic District QR code for Jarvesville – The intention is to print QR codes and place on small stakes near the Jarvesville Historic District signs, so anyone walking by can scan the code and learn more about the neighborhood. Matt wrote suggested text for this. His text was unanimously adopted as edited to include original Wampanoag use of the land that Jarvesville sits on today, and the fact that many immigrants settled in the neighborhood.

SHC and the group Protect Our Past will host a joint screening of the film "Love Letter to Cape Cod" on October 8, at 7:00pm at Town Hall. Protect Our Past will serve water and cookies. SHC members generated several ideas for promotion of this event. (NOTE: The time of this program was later changed to 6:00pm)

The Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets group will be in Sandwich in October to do an assessment of climate change in Sandwich. They will visit 10-20 properties (government, non-profit and private) to complete mitigation case studies. They will also consider more global solutions to flooding issues for whole neighborhoods. The group is also assessing properties in Falmouth Provincetown.

**7. Public forum:** Robert Thomson, Chair of the Library Board of Trustees, was asked by Julia if the library has an emergency response plan, particularly in regard to the Town archives storage area in the basement. He will check.

**8. Other business not anticipated by the chair:** none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Y. Madden