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**Minutes of the Sandwich Historical Commission
October 5, 2022**

SHC members present: Julia Blakely (chair), Jennifer Madden, Mahlon Peterson, Mary Lynch, Matt Schimmel, Brenda Kelley, Lisa Hassler, June Murphy

SHC members not present: Rich Claytor, Joanne Richardson

Members of the Public: Bernice Wahler, Candace and Robert Thomson, Ryan Davis (reporter from The Enterprise), Jeremy Ballard

Call to order: Julia Blakely called the meeting to order at 5:58 pm.

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

NOTE: The order of this meeting differed from the posted agenda.

3. Public Forum: Bernice Wahler is the new owner of the historic boathouse on Shawme Pond. Her goal is to restore the boathouse and enhance the conservation/preservation of the water quality of the pond. She has had a preliminary meeting with members of the town building and conservation departments. The first step will be to shore up the structure, then David Wheelock will deconstruct a portion of the roof so the structural engineer can get in and see what is left. After this initial investigation is complete, a plan will be made to rebuild with the goal to preserve as much of the original building as possible. Ms. Wahler will be investigating the possibility of crowd-funding for this project, grant and/or CPA funding, and the possibility of turning the boathouse into a museum.

5. New Business: The SHC must approve changes to buildings that previously received CPA funding and have a preservation restriction placed on their deed. Jeremy Ballard appeared on behalf of the Friends Meeting House with a proposal to replace the existing pressure treated deck on the front of the meetinghouse with like material and size. The Historic Preservation Restriction Certificate of Compliance was completed at the meeting and the motion to approve passed unanimously.

6 Harbor Street – (note: as a member of the SHDC Lisa Hassler recused herself from this discussion). At the last SHDC meeting the owners of 6 Harbor Street applied for a demolition permit. Using the new guidance for dealing with demolition requests jointly formulated by members of the SHC and SHDC, the owners were informed that the next step was to agree to a preservation assessment by Fred Eckert of Tidewater Property Preservation LLC, or their application would be denied. The owners agreed and this assessment will occur sometime the week of November 7. A motion to approve funding this assessment up to \$500 (exact amount to be determined at the next meeting) passed unanimously.

2. Correspondence/Statements/Announcements/Follow Up:

Julia received a request for information about cleaning family gravestones. Jennifer recommended contacting the Association for Gravestone Studies for best practices.

The Cape Cod Genealogical Society invited members of the SHC to participate in their upcoming virtual Scargo Summit on October 18, from 4:00pm-6:00pm.



Town Clerk Taylor White performed an audit of the SHC minutes and finds that we are missing minutes from a special meeting held January 20, 2021. At this meeting former member Ellen Carlson presented her document regarding strategic planning work for the SHC. A motion to submit her presentation as the minutes for this meeting passed unanimously.

The commission received an inquiry regarding history of the building that currently houses Two Feathers gift shop at 383 Route 6A. June investigated the history of this building.

4. Staff Meeting: A number of improvements will be made to the SHC website including posting the new historic marker application on the website, updating the current roster of members, changing the mailing address, and updating the master list of historic properties for the public to access. Julia will also ask the town to create a new email address that goes directly to the chair.

The SHC Facebook page has received more attention as of late. A recent post about the Hoxie House received a lot of engagement. Julia encourages members to make relevant posts.

The upcoming screening of the film "A Love Letter to Cape Cod" sponsored by the SHC will occur this Saturday, October 8 at 6:00pm at Sandwich Town Hall. It has been announced in a number of newspaper, television, and online sources. The producer will be present and will take questions after the screening. If anyone has suggestions of other films or speakers please let Julia know.

6. Old Business: The Silver Jacket team from the Army Corps completed their Risk Assessment visit on October 3. Sarah Korjeff, Historic Preservation Specialist from the Cape Cod Commission applied for the grant that funded their visit. The team included architectural historians, preservation experts, the Army Corp New England representative, a staff member from the Woods Hole Group, a basement flooding expert, as well as members of the town's staff. The group visited 14 properties including Town buildings, non-profits, and private homes. The report is expected in 3-8 months. It is expected to include guidelines and recommendations for each property and areas, and cost estimates for 3-5 buildings.

Lisa attended a class to learn more about the Certified Local Government (CLG) program. A benefit of becoming certified is access to a pool of grant money for historic preservation projects. Currently there is a pool of \$100,000 available for grants from Mass Historical. Only 27 communities in Massachusetts are CLGs, and only a couple of these towns apply for the grant each year. Examples of eligible projects that would be relevant for Sandwich include updating Form Bs for historic properties and the historic preservation plan. Sandwich already has many of the requirements for becoming a CLG in place.

Matt plans to order QR code stickers for the signs denoting the town's historic districts. Passers-by will be able to scan the QR code to go directly to more information about the district on the SHC website. A motion to approve this and reimburse him for his expenses of \$26 passed unanimously.

7. Public forum: none

8. Other business not anticipated by the chair: none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Y. Madden