

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 10/04/23
(approved 11/13/23)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:02 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Janice Stone, Matteo Pangallo, Bert Fernandez, Karen Czwerwonka

Commissioners Absent: none

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge (Associate Commissioner), Mary Lou Conca

Approve minutes: Minutes for 8/30/23 are not ready for review.

Guideboard Restoration Project Update: SHC met with the Select Board on 9/26/23 to review the proposal and get a green light to proceed. Town Administrator agreed to review the contract with Williamstown Art Conservation Center (WACC). Will also check on the insurance coverage. DeFant has not heard back from her yet and will reach out. The contractor is insuring the structure for the price of the contract. CPA proposal called for a minimum of \$10,000 of coverage. Pangallo: in conservation work, it is not typical to require a contractor to provide insurance beyond the amount of the contract. DeFant: must be municipal property insurance that covers accessory structures; don't know how Town can assign a monetary value to a rare historical object that has no market value. Commission would like to get this resolved quickly so structure can be removed before winter. Pangallo: should publicize the removal to the public. DeFant: need to figure out transportation; DeFant has reached out to Bob Groves for information since he has moved it in the past; would like to see if it can be moved with volunteer labor to save on costs; she has not heard back from him. SHC agrees that it will be necessary to move the structure carefully and to have it well protected during the move. DeFant will do further research and get input from WWACC. DeFant will check with a local piano mover, but it could be costly. DeFant will inquire if WACC can quote the transportation. Stone: what about insurance for the move? DeFant: movers usually have insurance; Town would cover volunteers. DeFant sent some pictures of examples of protective canopy cover for the Guideboard. Fernandez spoke with Russ Greco, a local builder, who is interested in volunteering for the structure. Stone: need a plan. DeFant: will produce a plan; can get them online easily; it is a simple structure; do we want to develop another CPA projects for the pavilion. Pangallo: it is allowable. Stone: does MHC need to approve it? DeFant: we can submit a Project Notification to MHC as was done with the Guideboard project.

DeFant: someone contacted the SHC, Paul Lyons, to discuss putting up a gazebo or band shelter on the common. SHC needs to make recommendations. We've committed to protecting the Guideboard. Stone: could we get a landscape architect to advise on the placement of the structure? DeFant: suggest moving the Guideboard 6-10' further away from the road. DeFant suggested considering restoring the top of the Guideboard to match its original shape. Stone agrees.

Unanticipated business:

DeFant has spoken with a potential new Commissioner. She thinks he would be a good addition but is not sure if he is interested.

Stone: what is the status of the digitization project? No updates at this time. Bracebridge and DeFant will meet to review next steps in the indexing project.

Lake Wyola/Bennett House: DCR is accepting letters of interest for curatorship. Select Board had considered the building in the past, but the state's conditions made it prohibitively expensive. Funding would have to be very

significant to renovate the property for public use. A private individual and contractor, Robert Decker, attempted to put together a proposal a few years ago, but the plan was rejected. Projects are expensive and ownership reverts back to the state. DCR has done a number of improvements, including windows and lead abatement, but the building needs updated plumbing and electrical work. Many of the historic interior finishes have been lost. Leslie Bracebridge is trustee for a donation for the site. Commission interested in getting a tour of the site.

Update on West School House Repairs:

Repairs are needed to the structure. The Friends of the SHC have donated \$1,500 toward repairs. Further assessment of the extent of the rot and damage is needed. Damage does not appear to be just superficial. Fernandez is investigating options.

Next meeting is October 25, 7.p.m.

Stone moved to adjourn. Czerwonka seconded. DeFant: aye; Czerwonka: aye; Geddes: aye; Pangallo: aye. Fernandez: aye. Stone: aye. *So moved.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Documents Used:

- Agenda
- Guideboard assessment by Williamstown Art Conservation Center

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary