

Historical Commission Meeting

Minutes for December 4, 2017, 4 PM

Approved at the 1/29/18 meeting

Shutesbury Town Hall – Community Lounge downstairs

Members Present: Miriam DeFant, Karen Czerwonka, Christopher Donta, Janice Stone, Kristin Van Patten, Henry Geddes, Mary Lou Conca (Associate).

Members Absent: James Schilling-Cachet.

Also Present: Town Administrator Rebecca Torres, Town Counsel Donna McNichol.

Minutes of October 30, 2017 were accepted as written.

4:05 PM Vote to move into Executive Session. Miriam made the motion to go into Executive Session for MGL c302a, section 21 (a), Reason 3 (To discuss recent correspondence regarding possible litigation.) Karen seconded the motion.

Roll call of members present:

Chris - yes
Janice - yes
Kristin - yes
Henry - yes
Karen - yes
Miriam - yes.

Miriam made the motion to invite the Town Administrator and Town Counsel into Executive Session. Karen seconded the motion.

Roll call of members present:

Chris - yes
Janice - yes
Kristin - yes
Henry - yes
Karen - yes
Miriam - yes.

4:10 PM Miriam announced the Historical Commission would be going back into Open Meeting after the Executive Session. Associate member Mary Lou Conca was asked to remain outside until Executive Session is over.

5:14 PM Resumption from Executive Session to Open Meeting. Mary Lou rejoins group, and Lisa Hoag, visitor from Wendell Historical Commission. Miriam suggested since the meeting was running late, they should postpone agenda items # 2, 4, & 5 (CPA committee updates, meeting with former Commissioners, next steps for Native American ceremonial sites preservation).

1. Approve minutes from 10/30/17 meeting. Kristin made the motion to approve the minutes as written. Miriam seconded. All voted in favor except Karen, who abstained since she had not read the minutes yet.

3. Website working group updates. Chris, Kristin and Janice are in this group. They are looking at other Historical Commission sites. Basic info should include members list,

mission statement and responsibilities, links to state resources. Group will meet to work on this. Their meeting must be posted.

6. Review of correspondence. Is it too late for a letter of support for Uniquely Quabbin? Probably.

Karen mentioned Veronica Moulton used to be part of the Historical Commission and had a lot of materials. What happened to those papers? Janice will check with Kathy Carey (relation). Concerning their vote last time to create a binder for the town hall. Commission realizes it would be burdensome to print out and put every email into this binder. Miriam made the motion, seconded by Kristin, and approved by all that the binder should be limited to agendas, minutes and materials used at the meetings.

7. Unanticipated Business. Lisa Hoag from the Wendell Historical Commission came to talk about a few things with the Shutesbury Historical Commission. She explained that Wendell has an MOU with area federally recognized Tribal Historic Preservation Offices (THPOs) to assist in identification and avoidance planning to ensure protection of ceremonial stone landscapes (CSLs) and others sites and features of Tribal significance. The MOU requires that the location of any historical/archaeological sites found under this MOU are not to be made public without the permission of the tribes. Miriam mentioned her concern about logging in state forests and the impact on CSLs. Does the Commission want to ask DCR to be concerned about protecting Indigenous/Tribal Native American sites in our town? Wendell is dealing with DCR forestry work now under their MOU. Commission considered sending letters of interest to a variety of tribes and groups (federal and state), preliminary to creating any MOU. Goal would be to create sensitivity maps for town land and other agreeable private owners. Next time Commission should discuss what their goals could be, and local people to consider inviting for further information.

8. Next meeting date. Commissioners agreed on Monday January 22nd at 4 PM.

9. Adjournment. Kristin made the motion, seconded by Karen, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone, Secretary
Shutesbury Historical Commission