

Historical Commission Meeting

Minutes for May 7, 2018, 4:30 PM

Approved at the 5/21/18 meeting

Shutesbury Town Hall – Community Lounge downstairs

Members Present: Miriam DeFant, James Schilling-Cachet, Henry Geddes, Janice Stone.

Members Absent: Karen Czerwonka, Christopher Donta, Kristin Van Patten, Mary Lou Conca (Associate).

Visitors: Leslie Bracebridge, Geoff Rogers.

1. Miscellaneous Start of Business. Janice Stone was the Chair of this meeting. Geoff Rogers told the group he was interested in serving on the Historical Commission, when there is an opening. Janice handed out Open Meeting Law (OML) and Conflict of Interest (CoI) paperwork and certificates of receipts to sign. Chris and Mary Lou need to provide both the CoI training certificate and the OML. Karen and Kristin still need to sign off on the OML.
2. Follow-up to meeting with Eva Gibavic about DCR cutting. Ms. Gibavic had attended the meeting on April 11th, but there had not been a quorum to do business. She had told the members present about her background, and her concern for logging practices in the area that may harm ceremonial stone landscapes or colonial features in the woods. She is working with the Wendell Historical Commission in an attempt to protect a site in Wendell. The Shutesbury Historical Commissioners members asked if she would be willing to take them on a walk through the proposed DCR logging site in the state forest in Shutesbury, and she agreed. Miriam has since been in touch with her about a few dates, but nothing definite yet. What are the next possible steps? One would be to draft a letter to DCR letting them know the Shutesbury Historical Commission is interested in what may be on the proposed logging site of historical value and would like to start a dialogue with them about it. Miriam will draft a letter for next meeting. Jim and Rolf are in touch with the DCR contact Bill Hill and will ask him about setting up a site visit with the Commission and DCR.
3. Discussion of Hidden Landscape video showing. Miriam has been in touch with Doug Harris about coming to the showing to lead a discussion about it. The date agreed upon was June 14th from 6:30-9:30pm. The film itself is 99 minutes. Miriam asked the Commission if they would be willing to pay Mr. Harris for coming out here for this event. It was agreed that \$350 would be reasonable. Commissioners discussed equipment (screen speakers, laptop projector), refreshments, and where to advertise the event. The film will be shown downstairs in town hall. Miriam will check with Joan Hanson about selling items to benefit the Friends of the Historical Commission. Admission is free. Miriam made a motion to approve spending \$350 from the Historical Commission budget for Mr. Harris's participation. The motion was seconded and approved.
4. Memorial Day Parade at Quabbin Cemetery. Miriam mentioned that the Commission has not received the letter from the bank this year about attending the Memorial Day event. Leslie stated that it usually arrived the beginning of May. The banner (and hangers) used for the Memorial Day parade are in the Old Town Hall, when needed. Karen and her husband have attended for many years and are planning to go again. Janice is willing to attend as well. There was discussion about who had and who should have a key to the Old Town Hall. Commissioners can go to the Police Dept to get a key to open the Old Town Hall, but we

should get a few copies of the keys made. Miriam made a motion to authorize spending about \$10 to duplicate keys to the Old Town Hall Building. Janice seconded, and all voted in favor. Leslie explained how she arranged key copies with the Town locksmith John Fuller of Belchertown. She reminded the Commissioners that they are responsible for the upkeep of the West School House. Leslie cleaned it all up before closing it after the Open House. The Commission should be communicating with the Building Committee about what work needs to be done and should do an inspection with them this summer.

5. Old Business. Commission discussed the support letter for Robert Decker and his project to restore the Lakeview House (Bennett house) with a DCR Historic Curatorship grant program. He is directly related to earlier owners of the house, and would love to restore it, but needs help with financing. For now, a letter of support from the Historical Commission will help with his DCR application. Henry will draft a letter, addressed to Mr. Decker, that he can pass on to DCR.

6. Minutes for March 15th and February 28th. Commissioners reviewed the two sets of minutes. Miriam made a motion to approve both sets of minutes. Jim seconded and all voted approval. There are no minutes for the April 11th meeting since there was not a quorum and no business could be conducted. The two visitors listed on the agenda (Eva Gibavic and Robert Decker) did come to the meeting, and were allowed to speak, but no decisions were made.

7. Scheduling of next meeting and agenda. Commissioners agreed to meet again this month on May 21st at 4:30pm, to finalize plans for the film showing and Memorial Day parade.

8. Adjournment. Miriam made the motion, seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone, Secretary
Shutesbury Historical Commission

List of Documents used at Meeting:

1. Agenda for this meeting.
2. Open Meeting Law Guide & Certificates of Receipts.