

# Historical Commission Meeting

Minutes for August 28, 2019, 7 PM

*Approved at the 9/25/19 meeting*

**Town Hall locked, eventually opened to Commissioners waiting in the rain.**

Members Present: Karen Czerwonka, Christopher Donta, Henry Geddes, Craig Pepin, Janice Stone. Mary Lou Conca (not sworn in yet) also present.

Members Absent:

## **Old Business**

Update on CPC Old Town Hall project. No recent news. Janice will check in with Bob Groves, who she has heard has agreed to be involved.

Gravestone Restoration CPC Project. The Chair of the Cemetery Commission, Walter Tibbets, has been in touch with T. Conde from Historic Gravestone Services about doing an appraisal soon on which gravestones and memorials should be done first. He is also working on paperwork for the restoration work and volunteer workshop.

## **New business**

Ideas for Celebrate Shutesbury 9/21/19

Commissioners discussed options. It would be nice to open the Old Town Hall, as Leslie Bracebridge used to do, but that takes time for clean up and organizing a display on some theme inside. Enlarge some of the historical postcards for display on the Common? Craig will work on this, needs to borrow some of those postcards. Indigenous history? Not enough time to plan something now, maybe next year. Janice showed the Commissioners her copy of the partial Corbin Collection, including mention of the first deed in town may have involved Indigenous People. Mary Lou asked what was involved in creating an Historic District? Group also discussed the Hepler Report (3 volumes). There are seven historic districts in town recorded with the state. Henry wondered about accessing some historical maps from Indigenous People. Are there any available to the public? Chris told the Commissioners that there was a statewide mapping of towns from the 1790s, maybe a copy in the UMass archives? Janice should check in with V. Moulton's relatives to find out what happened to the documents she had gathered on Native Americans.

Response to invitation to comment, Locks Pond Rd Wireless facility.

Janice told the group that the Mashpee Tribal Historic Preservation Officer had sent a reply that they would like to see a Phase 1 review of the property.

Filling the empty position on the Commission.

Commissioners should look around town for people interested in history. Having a table at Celebrate Shutesbury may attract possible candidates. Janice submitted a notice for the Roadtown News. Karen and Henry do not receive that townwide mailing.

Approval of minutes. Motion made by Karen to approve the minutes from April 4 and July 31, 2019. Craig seconded and all voted in favor.

Program related to Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscape. Janice told the Commission about her telephone conversation with Emily Volz and Doug Harris. Mr. Harris feels some relationships in town between the town and Native Americans need to be healed before we can move forward with any other plans. He will be reaching out to certain people to discuss how we can all work together to preserve CSLs (Ceremonial Stone Landscapes).

**Unanticipated business**

Parsonage Tour. Baptist Church is hoping to sell this house to fund installing an elevator for worshippers to be able to get upstairs to the Sanctuary. Town will tour the building in case they are interested in the property. Tuesday 9/3 at 5:30 pm.

Anti-discrimination Training for all town employees and volunteers on September 18<sup>th</sup> at 3-5 and 6-8 PM. All are encouraged to attend.

Annual Report for Historical Commission due by December 30<sup>th</sup>. Janice will write a draft for review.

Historical Commission Field trip to Underground Stone Chamber. Any Commissioners interested in coming should meet at 10AM in front of Town Hall on Saturday.

**Adjournment.** Karen made the motion, seconded by Chris, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. *Next meetings are Wednesday September 25<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday October 30<sup>th</sup> both at 6:30 PM.*

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone, Secretary  
Shutesbury Historical Commission