

# Historical Commission Meeting

Minutes for September 25, 2019, 7 PM

*Approved at the 10/30/19 meeting*

## Town Hall

Members Present: Karen Czerwonka, Mary Lou Conca, Christopher Donta, Henry Geddes, Janice Stone.

Members Absent: Craig Pepin

Guest: Leslie Bracebridge

### **Old Business**

Update on CPC Old Town Hall project. Janice told the Commission about a recent response from Bob Groves. He is willing to remain involved in the background, but only if the Building Committee supports him doing that. He has given the Building Committee all the information about the project and potential bidders for the project, so they can take charge of the project (review bids, provide oversight etc.). Janice will see if we can get more information on what is needed to move forward with this.

Gravestone Restoration CPC Project. The Chair of the Cemetery Commission, Walter Tibbets, has been in touch with a professional company about an appraisal on which gravestones and memorials should be done first at the West Cemetery.

### **New business**

Filling the empty position on the Commission. A resident on Montague Rd has expressed an interest in the Commission. Janice gave him the date and time of this meeting.

Celebrate Shutesbury 9/21/19. Janice described the event last weekend, which went well. The enlarged postcards Craig had done were a good draw for people to the table. Janice made a motion to reimburse Craig for the expense (\$60.25). Henry seconded, and all voted in favor. Janice will do the paperwork. Thanks to Craig for doing this, and Mary Lou for loaning the postcards.

Approval of minutes. Motion made by Karen to approve the minutes as written from August 28, 2019. Chris seconded and all voted in favor.

Discussion about digitizing historical information for public use on website. Commissioners discussed what might be appropriate to put out to the public. For instance, the 3 volumes of Hepler information on historically significant houses and other structures. A lot of it is individual private houses. Were the owners told the information would not be public when the review was done? Chris stated that at least some of that information is already available through the MA Historical Commission website. He explained to Commissioners how to find info on that website (mhc-macris.net), and showed some examples. There are over 200 listings in their on-line inventory of historic assets in Shutesbury. There are also maps available through maps.mhc-macris.net. Perhaps the Commission just needs to provide the links to these sites on their webpage? Commissioners discussed various listed sites. The signboard (#900) was last repaired by Bob Groves. Recently noticed it is off its foundation, sitting on dirt on one side, needs to be corrected. There are 6 Historic Districts listed in Shutesbury (they don't require any

special conditions). Sirius submitted their own National Register application for the South Schoolhouse on Baker Rd.

Plans for outreach & participation in Cultural Grant Program related to Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes. Nothing new.

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

Chris explained to the Commission what is happening now. The Phase 1A has been done, which consists of a “desk top survey”. Nothing was found from existing records. The Mashpee THPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Officer) requested a survey, so the Company will be doing a Phase 1B, which requires a permit before doing test pits. Decision on whether there are CSLs (Ceremonial Stone Landscapes) is up to the tribes. Chris has asked the consultant to let us know when they will be working on the site.

West Schoolhouse visit. Janice explained that the Historical Commission has been contacted by a teacher in the Shutesbury Elementary School about a school group taking a visit to the nearby West schoolhouse. Janice will be out of town, and asked if someone else from the Commission would be willing to meet the group there and give some background on the place. There is a teacher’s desk, the Dihlman store’s old cash register, and some children’s school books. It is not heated and there is no electricity. Chris volunteered to lead the tour for the school group (kindergarteners and their 6<sup>th</sup> grade buddies). Many thanks to Chris. He will be in touch with the teacher and Leslie Bracebridge (for the key & background info).

What does the Historical Commission need to be doing about historical properties in town? The Commission has responsibility for the following buildings: West Schoolhouse, Town Pound, Hearse House, Gatehouse at the Dam, 1829 Town Hall. It appears that the 1829 Town Hall is the one that needs attention first. Will check with town building committee.

### **Unanticipated business**

Parsonage Tour. Town tour was Tuesday 9/3 at 5:30 pm. Karen and Leslie Bracebridge attended. Building is in rough shape, needs a lot of work. Because the church rented the house out, it lost its tax-free status, so it is costing the Baptist church money. It has 1.3 acres.

Grants. Janice has info on a MA Historical Commission Surveying & Planning grant. Commission is not sure what they want to do, or whether anyone would have the time to work on it.

Doors of Shutesbury poster project. Mary Lou told the group 3 of her photos of doors of Shutesbury were published in Uniquely Quabbin magazine and the town newsletter. She would like to make a poster of them to sell to raise money for the Shutesbury Senior Center. She has been in touch with the CPC (Community Preservation Committee), but they do not believe her project qualifies as an allowable project for their grants. Historical Commission members suggest she work with the Senior Center, since it would benefit them.

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

Respectfully submitted by

*Janice Stone*, Secretary  
Shutesbury Historical Commission