

**Shutesbury Historical Commission**  
**Minutes – 3/24/2021**  
**(approved 12/6/21)**  
*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting date/time:** 7 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Greg Caulton, Ezzell Floranina, Mary Lou Conca, Karen Czerwonka, Janice Stone

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Others:** Susan Hoyle

The meeting started with Geddes sharing the agenda

**Minutes approval for February 5, 24.** Geddes moved to approve February 5<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Conca, and approved by DeFant, Stone, Conca, Geddes. Commission went on to discuss minutes for February 24<sup>th</sup>. Conca noted that language be revised regarding statements from a Lake Wyola Association President concern regarding signage. Secondly, Conca asked that references to historic district designation be revised. Stone agreed to the revisions. Discussion of signage and historic district were tabled in the interest of time. Geddes moved to approve 24 February minutes, Caulton seconded (with revisions), and approval echoed by Conca, Czerwonka, DeFant, Stone.

**Update on Ceremonial Stone Landscapes.** Geddes reported that a contract was sent to Bettina Washington (Aquinnah Wampanoag THPO) to consult with the HC, however no response yet. Conca asked about Washington's role as primary THPO when we have been speaking with Mark Andrews. DeFant noted that she has been revising the *Introduction to Indigenous Cultural Sites in Shutesbury* report. She then turned to the dissemination of the report: Hard copy for Town boards, Friends of the HC and library; link on the HC website, e-mail attachment to the Tribes. Conca wondered about usage of 'Indigenous' versus 'Native American' in the report and elicited rationales from Geddes and DeFant. Conca wondered about obtaining copies of several videos on Ceremonial stone Landscapes for the library as another way to inform Town officials and the public. DeFant argued that this should be coordinated with a possible training session by Dr. Lis McLoughlin, paid consultant, for Town boards as part of the roll out of the report. Stone wanted to include stone walls in the preservation initiative/policy as part of a preservation bylaw.

**Annual meeting.** Possible in April.

**South Brook Conservation Area.** DeFant introduced the need for HC input on plans for recreational use of the area, specifically a proposed mountain biking trail. The area may have Indigenous stone structures. Hoyle mentioned that bikers tend to use Indigenous markers. DeFant proposed that the HC conduct a preliminary survey to identify possible colonial and Indigenous sites with support from an external consultant. She noted that such initiatives could inform a National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listing proposed by longtime CSL authority and

advocate Doug Harris, who is working with attorney Peter Vickery on a legal framework for preserving Indigenous relics.

**Signage project and NRHP historic district.** Caulton had nothing to report. Conca mentioned the project to the Town librarian and discussed the possible role of the elementary school to gauge Town interest. She suggested we might send out a survey to the Town to do this more effectively. As Chair, Geddes has access to a Town-wide internet contact. DeFant suggested looking at Leverett's experience with historic district designation on the National Register in tandem with signs. Districts could be done sequentially to avoid overload. Town folk should be informed before a survey. Once it is on the National Register the Town may be more open to it. Millworks would be eligible for the National Register. Caulton was not sure about the time commitment but was willing to explore it with Conca. DeFant affirmed that Mass Historical Commission would be very supportive.

**Community Preservation Committee representative.** Floranina expressed interest and requested more information on the duties. Geddes reminded the committee that Czerwonka had already volunteered, so he would contact CPC chair Hanson to see if he would accommodate someone like Czerwonka without internet access.

**New business.** Geddes shared Sonia Atalay's comic on repatriation of Indigenous relics stored in museums as an alternative way of communicating such issues. Geddes will send Atalay a copy of the report and explore possibilities for collaboration.

The consensus is to disseminate the SHC report, *Historical Preservation and Solar Development*, approved at the March 19 meeting.

**Next meeting: 21 April at 7 p.m.**

Hoyle asked who would be doing the CSL survey on Cowls property and when. DeFant: Not sure but hope it will be a THPO.

**Geddes moved to adjourn. Czerwonka seconded. Approved by unanimous vote.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Henry Geddes, Chair, 12/05/21*