

# Shutesbury Historical Commission

Minutes – 8/14/24

(approved - 10/15/24)

*Virtual Meeting*

**Meeting start:** 7:06 p.m.

**Commissioners Present:** Henry Geddes (Chair), Bert Fernandez (7:10), Matteo Pangallo, Janice Stone, Karen Czerwonka

**Others Present:** Leslie Bracebridge

## **Public Comment**

None at this time.

## **Review & approve previous meeting minutes**

Minutes for 5/22/24.

One revision to typing. Czerwonka moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Pangallo. Czerwonka, Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo, & Stone voted in favor.

## **Update on Town Guide Board**

Pangallo reported that the WACC (Williamstown Art Conservation Center) is still working on removing the modern layers of paint to get to the original lead paint layer. They expect to be able to have the assessment completed by late Fall.

## **Update on Gazebo for Guideboard**

Fernandez reported he was supposed to meet with the Building Committee to discuss the gazebo, but they did not have a quorum, so the meeting was rescheduled to next Wednesday at 5:30pm. He will talk to them then. There may be a concern about maintenance, but there is not much, just staining the posts every few years. Pangallo willing to attend this meeting with Fernandez. Pangallo stated that the CPC will meeting August 22<sup>nd</sup> to consider whether to accept the present applications now (off-cycle), or have them wait for the normal schedule. The School Committee has requested an off-cycle review for renovation of the Amherst High School athletic fields. If the CPC agrees to the off-cycle review, the Historical Commission could apply too, if they want, to start construction of the gazebo so it is ready before the Guideboard returns.

## **Update on West Schoolhouse**

Fernandez reported that the Building Committee has already replaced the corner post. Steve Dalmus from the Building Committee has asked someone to check to see that where he has moved the cord to the lightning rod is okay and the water will no longer travel from the roof down the cord, affecting the front door and frame. There is a small opening in the siding near the front door, which someone has offered to fix. Is that okay with the Commission? Yes.

## **Policy on Metal Detectors on Public Land**

Commission continued discussion from last meeting on this. Geddes is concerned about procedures for protecting native cultural objects. Would the Police be the enforcers? There is no mention of enforcement powers in the Historical Commission MA General Laws. We need a policy about metal detection and enforcement procedures. This could be an opportunity to educate the public about historical properties and objects, including explaining the concerns.

Fairhaven has a policy on giving permits for use of metal detectors, and includes the reasons it is important. He will come up with some wording on this. Pangallo reiterated that no matter what the Commission or Town may come up with, there are still the state permit requirements for state lands. Looking at the Fairhaven policy, is it possible to enforce?

### **Unanticipated Business**

#### **Update on finances.**

Geddes and Pangallo had conversations with the Town Accountant, and things are being straightened out.

#### **Gold Cane for Oldest Resident**

Bracebridge spoke with the Commission about reactivating the practice the Town used to have to identify and honor the oldest resident in town with the Gold Cane (or actually some substitute since the original had been lost some time ago). The practice started with the Boston Post distributing an ebony cane with a gold head to the Town Selectboards for this purpose. The Historical Commission later took over this practice and acquired gold pins resembling the Gold Cane for presenting to the Oldest Resident. A resident came to her recently asking about the practice. She will send the Commissioners some info on the history of the Boston Post Cane. The Commission, if interested, should connect with Selectboard to see if they are in agreement with doing this. The official ceremony could be at a Selectboard meeting, a Town Meeting, or some other event (like community ones on the Common). Stone said she would be willing to look into this.

#### **Next Meeting**

Commissioners did not decide on the next meeting date, since it will depend on if they need to approve a request for off-cycle review for the gazebo, which may depend on responses from the CPC, Selectboard and Building Committee. Geddes will be in touch with next date in September. Meetings are still being held by Zoom.

#### **Adjournment**

Geddes moved to adjourn. Fernandez seconded. Czerwonka, Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo, & Stone voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted by Janice Stone*