

Shutesbury Historical Commission

Minutes – 12/10/24

(approved – 1/15/25)

Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:05 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Bert Fernandez, Matteo Pangallo, Janice Stone

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge, Susan Millinger, Mariah Shore, Erin McGuirl

Public Comments

Millinger wished to speak on behalf of the Cemetery Commission. She explained that in the past the Historical Commission has provided some funds to help in the restoration of gravestones at West Cemetery. They have a plan now for 20 gravestones to be restored in 2024, and 20 more in 2025. They will be seeking funds from the CPC for this work. Would the Historical Commission consider writing a letter of support to the CPC for this work? Would the Historical Commission also consider providing some financial support to the project? The Historical Commission did provide \$500 last year towards the work.

Geddes thanked Millinger for coming, and told her the Commission would write a letter of support, and would discuss a donation as well later in the meeting. The Historical Commission asked if the previous \$500 has been used. It appears that it has been.

The two new guests to the meeting, Mariah Shore and Erin McGuirl told the Commission they were present because they were interested in the work of the Historical Commission and might like to join the Commission. They both discussed their backgrounds and interests.

Shore's work involved digitizing family archives. McGuirl has Special Collections training (early 16th century to the present). There was a general discussion of the group about interests in the organizing the archives, and then digitizing the records. The Commissioners were pleased with both of their backgrounds and interests. Pangallo made the motion, with Stone seconding, to recommend Mariah Shore and Erin McGuirl to the Selectboard for appointment to the Historical Commission. Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo and Stone voted in favor. Geddes will send the information to the Selectboard for consideration.

Update on Town Guide Board

The Commissioners provided some background on this project for Shore and McGuirl. It is still at the WACC (Williamstown Art Conservation Center), undergoing restoration. The first phase is almost done. The lettering is almost fully repainted. Fortunately, there will be no change in the contract and cost for the work recommended in Smulski's letter to the Selectboard. But the Commission still needs to determine how to provide a cement base for the outdoor installation, and what kind of roof to use. There was a discussion about who would make these decisions? Building Committee with Selectboard input, or the Historical Commission? The top of the present roof is not authentic (post 1939). Smulski recommended red cedar shingles. This will take additional funds, and the CPC deadline for first consideration of projects (Determination of Eligibility) is this Friday. The Commission needs to address the foundation and the roof cap. Right now, it looks like the Historical Commission will do the application for the foundation, and the Building Committee will do the cement base and gravel work. Pangallo estimates about \$4,000, of which \$1,000 could be in-kind work.

Commission discussed how to get an accurate estimate on cost for the roof cap. They agreed to ask the WACC. They are already working on the structure and would have the best idea. Stone made the motion, seconded by Geddes, to authorize Pangallo to submit an Application of Eligibility for the concrete base and related work; and another for the roof cap, with an estimate of cost from the WACC. Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo and Stone voted in favor. Fernandez will contact Smulski about whether roof option A or B is better for shedding water etc.

Update on Enforcement Policy

Commission decided to discuss this more at another meeting.

Update on Historical Commission account

Geddes informed the Commission that the Interim Town Administrator will be posting all the town department accounts monthly on the website. The Commissioners will look over the information online for discussion next time. Stone mentioned that there was still \$900 from a SHRAB grant to repaint the three-part wooden war memorial on the Common. The Historical Commission received the grant just before COVID shut everything down, and then she was unable to find a painter with experience & interest in doing this work. Someone suggested Franklin County Tech school, since they were the ones who build & painted the structure. And ask Al Springer.

Commissioners discussed payments to WACC for restoration of the Guideboard. The first half of the payment came from the Historical Commission account, which is an error (should have been CPC grant), but Accountant says it cannot be corrected until July 2025.

Review & approve previous meeting minutes

Review\ next time.

Unanticipated Business

Pangallo made the motion, seconded by Geddes, to offer \$500 to the Cemetery Commission for their Gravestone Restoration (at West Cemetery) CPC application. Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo and Stone voted in favor.

Stone mentioned the idea of putting together a small booklet on Historic Buildings in Shutesbury center. She has seen a couple versions from other towns, such as Sunderland's "Historic District Walking Tour", which was created and updated by the Sunderland Historic Commission. There is also a simple 3-fold 8.5x11" version for Main Street. Stone is interested on working on this, is anyone else? She wondered if the Commission needed permission from the homeowners to take photos of their houses from the road for this handout? The historical information is available from the MA Historical Commission website. Bracebridge suggested starting with town buildings. Stone agreed, and will check with Sunderland Commissioners about how they did it.

Adjournment

Geddes moved to adjourn. Pangallo seconded. Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo, & Stone voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Stone