

Historical Commission Annual Meeting

Minutes for April 4, 2019, 7 PM

Approved at the 8/28/19 meeting

Shutesbury Town Hall – Community Lounge downstairs

Members Present: Miriam DeFant, Henry Geddes, Janice Stone, Karen Czerwonka (arrived 7:20), Christopher Donta (left at 7:40 to attend CPC meeting).

Members Absent: Kristin Van Patten.

Miriam DeFant was the Acting Chair of this meeting.

1. Miriam announced that she has a lot going on with her family, and she needs to step back from the Commission work.
2. Appointment of officers. Commissioners discussed who was willing to serve as Chair or Secretary. Janice agreed to continue to serve as Secretary. She will now do the agenda postings as well. Chris made a motion to reappoint Janice as Secretary. Miriam seconded and all voted in favor. Miriam agreed to continue to serve as “Communications Officer”, not Chair. She will facilitate meetings & communications with the public. Janice made the motion, seconded by Chris to have Miriam serve as Communications Officer. All voted in favor.
3. Filling the Vacancy on the Commission. This is the seat Jim Schilling-Cachet resigned from on 6/10/18. It is time to get it filled. Miriam has spoken to the Selectboard and asked them to put this on their agenda, so candidates can speak with the Selectboard and they can decide. Miriam will check with Becky Torres on likely dates for the meeting, so Commissioners can sit in as well.
4. Planning for Memorial Day Parade. The Memorial Day service at Quabbin Park Cemetery will be held Sunday May 26th this year. The Historical Commission is required to participate in the event to receive an endowment from a trust fund. Karen and her husband Bill and Janice will do it again this year. Janice will communicate with Leslie B. to get the banner and hangers.
5. Town Meeting Warrant Article related to State Seal Commission. Miriam has submitted the required number of signatures to the Town Clerk so this will be on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant. Miriam will do a handout. Henry agreed to introduce the article and answer questions at the meeting.
6. CPC Old Town Hall proposal updates. Chris Donta told the Commission that the CPC (Community Preservation Committee) had reservations about the project as Bob Groves presented it, so crafted some specific conditions on the use of the money. They are concerned that the requested \$34,000 is “just a drop in the bucket” and there is no way to know now how much money it would take to do all that needs to be done to be usable for the public. They did vote to recommend to ATM funding to excavate under the old town hall to look at the foundation. Half the money can be spent on hiring the engineer to excavate that area and create plans to deal with the foundation. Then they are to report back to CPC. It must be all bid work,

and must meet Secretary of Interior standards for historical buildings. There is still the big question of what the Town wants to do with this building. That will drive what kind of repairs are needed. Can't really be a public meeting space with no room for ADA parking. This project will at least stabilize the building foundation for now.

7. Approval of minutes from February 7, 2019. Miriam made the motion to accept the minutes of February 7, 2019 as written. Henry seconded and all voted in favor.

8. Review of plans for outreach and participation in Cultural Grant Program related to Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes. Miriam said she would contact the group that offered this program and see if we can get something going for mid-September. Commission voted in February to use \$500 from our funds to cover the cost of the speaker Doug Harris, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

9. Unanticipated business. Status of gravestone restoration under CPC grant. The budget sheet shows that the \$1000 the Historical Commission had voted to spend on the Cemetery is still there, so it can be used towards the gravestone restoration project. There is also around \$500 still in the hearse house line item. Nothing is happening on the CPC grant yet. Next Meeting date? Probably Wednesday May 8th or 15th.

10. Adjournment. Janice made the motion, seconded by Henry, to adjourn the meeting. All voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone, Secretary
Shutesbury Historical Commission

List of Documents used at Meeting:

1. Agenda for this meeting.
2. Draft minutes for February 7, 2019.