

## **Historical Commission Meeting**

**Minutes for September 10, 2020, 7:00 PM**

*Approved 1/27/21*

### **Zoom Remote Access Meeting**

*August Meeting was not held because of problems with the Zoom Meeting not letting people in.*

Members Present: Mary Lou Conca, Karen Czerwonka, Chris Donta, Henry Geddes, Craig Pepin, Janice Stone.

Members absent: NA

Visitors: Greg Caulton, Miriam DeFant, John Warwick.

*Henry Geddes hosted the meeting.*

Because two of the attendees could not stay on past 7:30 or 8 PM, the Commission started with the most important item, Status of memberships on Historical Commission. Janice had sent out an email to members describing the status of members & vacancies. The members and their terms are:

Karen Czerwonka 2021 (3yr)

Craig Pepin 2023 (3yr)

Henry Geddes 2021 (3yr)

Chris Donta 2022 (3yr)

Janice Stone 2022 (3yr)

Mary Lou Conca 2022 (3yr)

The vacancy left by Kristin Van Patten: expires 6.30.2022

Craig and Chris have both announced that they will be stepping off the Commission. Craig is moving out of town, Chris is busy with work. That means 3 positions will be open before the next Historical Commission meeting, and a fourth will be open when Janice steps down in December. The Commission heard Miriam's background and interests in rejoining the Commission. She is looking to join the Conservation Commission as well, and could serve as a liaison between the two groups. Greg, John Walter and John Warwick are still interested. John Walter turned in his letter of interest some months ago and stated he would like to serve on the Historical Commission, but would not be attending any more meetings until the replacements are chosen. Chris said he would resign after the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting next week. He has been the representative for the Historical Commission on the CPC for the past few years. Someone will need to take his place. He explained what is involved with serving on the CPC, from the application process to Annual Town Meeting.

Commissioners discussed how to handle recommendations to the Selectboard. Karen made the motion to recommend John Walter, Greg Caulton and Miriam DeFant to fill the 3 seats open within the month on the Commission. Craig seconded, and all voted in favor. Commission stated that John Warwick could fill the fourth opening when Janice steps down in December. Janice will write to the Selectboard about this recommendation. Miriam left at 7:15 to attend the Conservation Commission meeting.

The Commissioners asked Craig for an update on the conversion of the old audio tapes (1970s) to digital format. He said he was about a third of the way through the 16. He had to put his equipment away when they were selling the house, but can set it up again to continue. He is leaving October 15<sup>th</sup>, moving back to VT. Craig said he had emailed Leslie Bracebridge about getting the rest of the tapes to try and finish them before he left. He and Leslie will work out the details.

### **Old Business**

Update on Gravestone Restoration Project & painting War Memorial. Janice told the group the Chair of the Cemetery Commission was working on a date for the Gravestone Restoration and Cleaning Workshop for volunteers, and will let the Commissioners know in case they would like to attend.

Janice mentioned that the Guideboard on the Town Common needs repainting. Perhaps the Commission could do a CPC application to share the cost.

Approval of Minutes July 20, 2020. Mary Lou had a correction on third page. Craig made the motion, seconded by Karen, to approve the minutes with the correction noted. All voted in favor. Mary Lou asked about getting permission to see the Bennett House. She saw a notice from the DCR looking for someone to lease and restore the house and other structures.

Craig had to sign off at 7:55 for another meeting. He said it had been a great 2.5 years. All wished him well.

### **Old and New Business**

Locating Reference materials on CSLs. Mary Lou had given some materials on this to Janice before the Pandemic. They need to be scanned to distribute to members. Janice does not have a scanner that works at home right now, so taking a while longer. Janice asked what the correct terminology is for the Native American stone structures. Some books refer to them as Stone Prayers, or Stone Groupings. Larger areas of them are called Cultural Stone Landscapes. Mary Lou recommends the book Stone Prayers by Curtiss Hoffman. Henry said he has some ideas for reference materials, but also wants to look at the larger context of narratives that have emerged since the arrival of the colonists, to make native people invisible.

To be continued to another meeting: Scenic Roads bylaw, Rolf Cachet-Schilling's bylaw. Start with Planning Board, then Selectboard and then Town Meeting. Time to start on that process soon.

Field Trip. Janice offered to take members on a short hike to see some stone structures. Group agreed on Saturday Sept. 26 at 10 AM. Meet at Quabbin gate at end of Prescott Rd.

Other Projects. Mary Lou mentioned how she likes the Historic District signs she sees in Leverett. Does Shutesbury have any Historic Districts? If so, we should do some similar signs. Chris said there are seven local Historic Districts in Shutesbury. He looked it up on the MA Historic Commission website. The seven districts are: Shutesbury Center (Town Hall to Wendell Rd), South end of Pratt Corner Rd, Temenos, Lake Wyola, Lake Wyola State Park, and Quabbin Reservoir. He said the forms and boundary information is easily available. Chris will send us a link. Janice suggested Mary Lou consider this for a CPC grant for the Historical Commission.

Next Meeting Dates. Commission considered dates. Second and fourth Thursdays are out because of Conservation Commission meetings (Miriam). Thursdays are not good for Karen either. Henry is looking to join the Planning Board, so Mondays would be out as well. Mary Lou can't do Wednesdays. Group agreed on Tuesday September 20 at 7 PM by Zoom.

**Adjournment.** Commissioners voted to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Janice Stone, Secretary  
Shutesbury Historical Commission