

**Shutesbury Historical Commission
January 16, 2021 (approved with amendments 4/28/21)
(Virtual Meeting)**

Meeting start: 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Greg Caulton, Mary Lou Conca, Miriam DeFant, Janice Stone, John Walter

Commissioners Absent: Karen Czerwonka

Visitors Present: Kyana Ferro

Update on hiring Mark Andrews, Deputy Tribal Historic Preservation Officer,

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah): Draft agreement provided by Andrews was reviewed. Geddes has been in communication with Andrews and is awaiting feedback from him about the specific language of the agreement to consult with the SHC. Geddes has also been in contact with the Town Counsel regarding the agreement.

New Issue: Walter proposed that future meeting agendas be approved in advance by the HC at the conclusion of each meeting. He expressed concerns about the use of consultants to assist with the CSL Project. Walter suggested that perhaps Indigenous issues should be addressed by a committee created by the Select Board. No decisions made.

Commission Interpersonal Process: The Commissioners engaged in a discussion about how they are making decisions and working with one another.

MOTION: DeFant moved that the Commission agree to hire Mark Andrews for six hours of educational activities to be paid for out of the Commission's account.

SECOND: Stone

ROLL CALL: Conca: aye; Stone: aye; Walter: abstains; Caulton: aye; Geddes: aye; DeFant: aye

Work Plans for SHC Projects (cultural resource areas, stone walls, historic trees, etc):

DeFant suggested that working groups develop work plans to share with the Commission such as the one circulated to Commissioners by DeFant for the Special Permit Applications and Planning Board. Conca expressed an interest in seeing the HC storage closet in Old Town Hall when possible. Stone expressed a desire to work with Walter and Caulton on digitization and archiving. Caulton likes the idea of having written plans for projects. He wondered if the HC could use a digital whiteboard platform. Caulton will inquire with Town Hall to see if these platforms can be used.

All Boards Meeting on 1/19/21: Geddes will attend and present for the HC.

Discussion about Land Acknowledgment and HC Statement for website: Conca asked to have public discussion about Land Acknowledgments. She introduced her granddaughter who was present. Ferro expressed importance of backing acknowledgments with action. She mentioned the LandBack movement. Conca agreed that land acknowledgement needs to be accompanied by actions.

Update on Signs Project: Conca discussed visiting other towns' historic districts. She noted Athol has created a historical trail. She noted that Shutesbury has two Indigenous place names. She found this information on Wikipedia. Caulton showed a draft graphic design for signs.

Approve Minutes, 9/10/20: Minutes cannot be approved because HC needs a quorum of Commissioners present who also attended the 9/10/20 meeting. Agree to keep item on agenda for future approval.

Newsletter discussion: The deadline for Our Town newsletter is January 29, 2021. Geddes will work on draft language to review at next meeting. Conca wants to attach the graphic design to the newsletter.

Work Plan for CSL Project: DeFant emailed Commissioners a draft work plan to review. Conca noted she is experiencing some difficulties with attachments in her emails. An information packet with handouts was circulated to all Commissioners on 1/14/21. DeFant suggested Conca might want to get a different email account for HC business.

MOTION: DeFant moved that the Commission appoint Geddes, DeFant, and Stone to a CSL Working Group to complete drafts of reports about Indigenous cultural resources and written findings for proposed solar projects once they are submitted.

Discussion: Conca expressed desire to be in Working Group. Geddes supports these three Commissioners as they have the most experience. As Chair, he has nominated these three individuals. Reports will be submitted in draft form to the Commission for approval and input before being released.

SECOND: Caulton

ROLL CALL: Conca: aye; Stone: aye; Walter: aye; Caulton: aye; Geddes: aye; DeFant: aye

Celebrate Shutesbury Digitization: DeFant volunteered to digitize her personal copy of this document and has obtained permission from the editor.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, Jan 27th, 6:00, pm

Agenda items for next meeting;

- Approve minutes for 12/28/20, 1/13/21
- Review contracts
- Review status of Ceremonial Stone Landscape projects
- Review language for town newsletter
- Newsletter
- Other business as time permits

MOTION: Geddes moved to adjourn.

SECOND: Conca

ROLL CALL: Conca: aye; Stone: aye; Walter: aye; Caulton: aye; Geddes: aye; DeFant: aye
Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Documents Used:

- Agenda
- 9/10/20 Draft Minutes
- Draft contract for Mark Andrews
- Draft work plan for CSL Reports
- Draft HC website content

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary, 4/29/21