

DRAFT Shutesbury Historical Commission
4/28/21, 2021 (approved 11/22/21)
(Virtual Meeting)

Meeting start: 7:05 pm.

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

Commissioners Absent: Karen Czerwonka

Visitors Present: Joan Hanson, Allen Hanson

Minutes: Approved minutes for /16/21 with minor edits

MOTION: Geddes moved to accept 1/16/21 minutes with minor edits. SECOND: Stone

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

Conca inquired about the use of last names in minutes rather than initials. DeFant explained that other committees use last names to make it easier to read. Conca asked about minutes for the joint PB/SB/HC meeting on 4/5/21. DeFant explained that she learned the SB is responsible for creating the minutes for that meeting, not the HC. The draft minutes that DeFant distributed can be discarded.

Annual Meeting Officer Appointment: MOTION: DeFant moved to nominate Geddes to be Chair. SECOND: Stone; ROLL CALL: Stone: aye; Floranina: aye; Caulton: aye; DeFant: aye;

Geddes: aye; Conca: aye. MOTION: Geddes moved to nominate DeFant to be Secretary.

SECOND: Stone; ROLL CALL: Stone: aye; Floranina: aye; Caulton: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Conca: aye.

Review report on 4/5 meeting with Cows, Inc.: DeFant presented the 4/5/21 report on a meeting with representatives of Cows, Inc. DeFant was initially invited to attend the meeting by Eva Gibavic. In the meeting, representatives of Cows, Inc. shared information about how they intended to meet the historical preservation assessment and documentation requirements in the town's Solar Bylaw. They are working with a research group that is skilled in the assessment of Indigenous Ceremonial Stone Landscapes and have begun consulting with Bettina Washington, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)(Tribal Historical Preservation Officer or THPO). They wish to work collaboratively with the Historical Commission and allow site visits by Commissioners. None of the Commissioners deliberated in this meeting. DeFant explained that the Commissioners listened to the proposal, but declined to offer any feedback or agree to anything. Conca asked why Dr. McLoughlin was not present at the meeting. DeFant: we didn't feel it was appropriate to invite her without the full Commission's approval.

Ceremonial Stone Landscape Working Group: DeFant suggested that the Commission dissolve the CSL Working Group as the reports are now completed and the Commission is not actively working with a Tribe at this time. The Commission will get some kind of report from the THPO after the solar parcels are investigated. Most of the remaining work can take place with the full Commission. MOTION: DeFant moved to dissolve the CSL Working Group. SECOND: Geddes; ROLL CALL: Stone: aye; Floranina: aye; Caulton: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Conca: aye.

Privacy policy for reviewing sensitive data for solar projects: DeFant explained that Eva Gibavic of Ceremonial Landscape Research, LLC is working with Cowls to survey and map the solar parcels. She contacted DeFant to inquire about how the Town boards would handle archaeologically and culturally sensitive data such as geo-located photographs of stone groupings that the THPO deems are Indigenous. Security of data is a concern because many cultural sites have been vandalized by pot hunters and others who have treated the sacred sites with disrespect. There is no current policy in place and all data attached to Special Permit applications become part of the public record. DeFant presented these concerns at a Planning Board meeting on 4/24/21 and asked the PB to agree to a joint meeting with the HC and Town Counsel to discuss a procedure for handling sensitive data. The HC has statutory authority to review sensitive data in Executive Session. One option is to have the applicant submit the sensitive data only to the HC and to review it with the applicant, THPO, and HC in an Executive Session. The HC could issue a set of written findings to the Planning Board with its opinion about the sufficiency of the plans. The applicant could then submit a site plan that does not identify the cultural sites along with other documents to the PB directly. Commissioners and Planning Board members could potentially conduct site visits to confirm flagging in the field. Geddes noted the importance of developing a protocol for sensitive data. Geddes will follow up with the PB and Town Attorney. Conca expressed approval for the plan to allow a THPO to conduct site visits. Floranina emphasized the importance of the HC being allowed to review the data and mitigation plan to determine its sufficiency. She asked about which board addresses provisions of the solar bylaw. DeFant explained that the bylaw is administered by the Planning Board. DeFant proposed that she draft a protocol to be distributed in draft form to the Commissioners and the Planning Board. She noted that the document should include a number of requirements, including buffer zones, construction monitoring, and decommissioning plans. Geddes approved this plan for DeFant to prepare a draft for the Commission to review. He suggested that the applicant might be able to prepare two sets of maps, one site map would be public-facing and would not identify cultural sites and buffer zones. Floranina expressed concern about possible damage to stone groupings caused by excessive water runoff from solar panels. Panels can accelerate flow because they are impervious. Erosion could disrupt stone groupings. DeFant noted that buffer zones would reduce this risk, but the Commission can inquire about this once it reviews site plans. Caulton asked if the Conservation Commission would be involved. DeFant explained that the Conservation Commission is completing the ANRAD approvals, and will only have future jurisdiction if the applicants wish to conduct work in or near wetlands. In that event, they have to submit Notices of Intent (NOIs) to the Conservation Commission. Stone: the HC voted on an Archaeology Security Policy. How would review of sensitive data review to us individually? DeFant: the Security Policy has a Confidentiality Form. All Commissioners would need to sign the form and assure the Commission that they would not divulge any of the data to the public.

7:25 pm: Joan and Alan Hanson join the meeting.

CPA Committee Update: Allen Hanson is Chair of the CPC. Geddes explained that Commissioner Czerwonka was interested in serving as the HC representative but has no computer/internet access. The HC is willing to support Czerwonka by copying and delivering documents to her in print form. Hanson: we do a lot of work by email and it would be hard to keep a member up to date without email; Geddes plans to discuss the issue further with

Czerwonka, to determine if she is still interested in this role. Her appointment is up for reappointment this year. Floranina: the HC wishes to create a culture of inclusion that allows any resident to serve on a board. We should not be penalizing someone who does not have electronic devices. Geddes: Czerwonka is able to use phone access to Zoom meetings. Hanson: we have a meeting coming up on 5/6 that is not posted yet; they will discuss this issue. Hanson: I agree with the proposal in principle but cannot speak for the whole CPC Committee. Conca and Floranina agreed to assist Czerwonka as needed. Geddes will attend the meeting to represent the HC. Conca may also unofficially attend.

Review list of Commissioner reappointments for Select Board: Geddes has not yet spoken with Czerwonka about whether she wishes to be reappointed. DeFant suggested Geddes reach out and speak with her about her appointment and the CPC representative role. It's important for her to know that the HC needs monthly reports from the representative. DeFant expressed concern because of Czerwonka's frequent missed meetings. All Commissioners present wish to remain on the Commission. Stone agrees to remain in her role for now.

SHRAB Roving Archivist Grant update: SHRAB has approved the Roving Archivist to work on the Historical Commission's collection in Old Town Hall. DeFant noted that the SHRAB staff have not yet contacted the HC. No updates. She will keep this item on the agenda. Once the process begins, the HC can arrange a site visit to the Old Town Hall with Leslie Bracebridge.

South Brook Conservation Area Survey: The Conservation Commission is going on a walk this coming weekend to look at the trails. There is a CPA project going before Town Meeting that would require new surveys and possible changes to the trails. A mountain biking group wishes to apply for CPA funds next year to construct mountain biking trails, DeFant has concerns about the impact of all these activities on stone groupings and historical structures on the 90-acre parcel which is owned by the Town and managed by the Conservation Commission. Multiple uses increase the likelihood of greater impacts. DeFant has proposed that the HC conduct a mapping survey of stone structures this year. This project would require a group of volunteers and someone to train the volunteers. Conca asked if she could attend the walk with the Conservation Commission. DeFant suggested that she email the Chair, Liam Cregan. Hanson suggested that the HC reach out to Penny Jacques since her project involves mapping trails and might re-route trails. DeFant agreed to reach out to Penny. Stone expressed concern about the mountain biking proposal because of the possible impacts to wetlands and stone groupings. DeFant agreed to reach out to Lis McLaughlin and Eva Gibavic to explore who might be able to train volunteers. This item will be continued to the next meeting for further planning and discussion.

New Business: Conca discussed progress on the historic marker project. She and Caulton are going to use a digital whiteboard platform to work together. Caulton noted it can be made public. He emailed the Town Clerk and Town Administrator several weeks ago about whether this platform was allowable and never received a response. DeFant suggested he reach out to the Town Clerk directly as she is the OML Officer for the Town. She is not sure the use of a digital whiteboard by an appointed subcommittee is permitted under OML. Conca mentioned that Leverett has historic district markers and Athol has a historic trail. MACRIS identifies 6 potential districts in Shutesbury. DeFant noted that the data in MACRIS only shows the MHC survey data, not the actual historic district determination by the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Leverett districts are listed on the NRHP. DeFant distributed links to the NRHP application website after the last meeting. Conca noted the importance of informing the public and developing support and enthusiasm. DeFant encouraged the subcommittee to review

the NRHP paperwork. Geddes suggested they join the Mass. Historical Association listserv. Stone suggested finding out if Athol listed their historic trail on the NRHP. Conca would like to see antique homes in town with markers.

Next meeting:

5/26 @ 6 pm

5/10 @ 7pm, possible joint meeting with PB, to be announced

Items for next meeting:

Solar Project updates

Review draft policy for solar project mapping data

Historic Signs subcommittee updates

South Brook Conservation Area mapping project

SHRAB Roving Archivist Program updates

CPC representation update

MOTION: DeFant moved to adjourn SECOND: Geddes; ROLL CALL: Stone: aye; Floranina: aye; Caulton: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Conca: aye.

Adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Documents Used:

- 1/16/21 Draft Minutes
- 4/5/21 Cows Meeting Report
- Email regarding SHRAB Roving Archivist Program
- 3/19/21 Shutesbury Historical Commission Archaeological Security Policy

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary