

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 6/23/21
(approved 7/21/21)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:16 pm

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Greg Caulton, Karen Czerwonka, Mary Lou Conca (joined meeting at 7:21 pm)

Commissioners Absent: Ezzell Floranina, Janice Stone,

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge

Approve Minutes for 6/17/21 Meeting: Motion to approve: Geddes; Second: Caulton; Roll Call: Caulton: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Czerwonka: abstain

Historical Commission Collection Archiving: Caulton and Bracebridge met with Irene Gates from the Massachusetts SHRAB Roving Archivist Program on 6/14/21. She will be producing a report with recommendations for inventorying the collection, scanning and indexing software and archiving platforms, including the Digital Commonwealth Platform, which is free. Commissioners discussed possibly seeking grants in the future to assist with the project.

Review AMP Solar and MHC Correspondence: Commission considered recent documentation from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and AMP Solar Development, Inc. MHC is asking AMP to conduct archaeological surveys of the project sites. Commissioners also discussed the need for the Planning Board to hire its own third-party reviewer(s) to comment on any future reports and mitigation plans. The Commission discussed and approved draft email responses to AMP Solar, the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regulations. Per the Solar Zoning Bylaw, the Historical Commission is tasked with responding in 35 days, i.e, by July 23rd. The Commission reviewed preliminary mapping and photographic data from Dr. Lis McLaughlin, Ph.D. that relied upon donated data from various local researchers. This data has already been shared by Dr. McLoughlin with multiple Tribal Historic Preservation Offices. The Commission has been advised by Bettina Washington of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) that data should not be made public unless identifying information, such as coordinates, are removed due to the sensitivity of sacred sites. DeFant offered to draft a report response for the Commission. **Geddes moved that DeFant should create a draft report for the Commission to review. Caulton: Seconds. Roll Call: Caulton: aye; Czerwonka: aye; Conca: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye.**

South Brook Conservation Area Site Visit: Several Commissioners and Bracebridge visited the Conservation Area on June 4. A large number of stone groupings were observed, some of which are clearly early settler sites, and some appear not to be. Stone expressed concerns about how to protect the environmental and historical resources on this tract. Bracebridge noted that the property has not been surveyed in many years and property boundaries are unclear. Concerns were expressed about a proposed mountain biking trail project on the site as bikers may go off-trail and stone structures could be affected. The property already is being affected by 2- and 4-wheel recreational vehicles. Bracebridge explained the history of the parcel. The property was

first purchased to be a conservation area. The Commission will go forward with researching ESRI mapping licenses. Caulton agreed to investigate.

Possible Next Meeting: 7/7/21

Motion to Adjourn: DeFant; Second: Geddes. Roll Call: Czerwonka: aye; DeFant: aye; Caulton: aye; Geddes: aye; Conca: aye.

Adjournment: 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Historical Commission Secretary, 2/21/21