

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 12/06/21
(approved 1/26/22)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 8:03 pm.

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

Commissioners Absent: Ezzell Floranina

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge, Caridad Martinez, Rebecca Torres

Approved Minutes:

10/19/21 Minutes: Discussion about what constitutes a quorum for a working group. Bracebridge suggested a minor edit about the mention of mice issues in the building. She has not been monitoring it as carefully as in the past due to challenges to getting into the building. **DeFant moved to approve; Geddes seconded. Approved 4/0 by roll call vote by Caulton, DeFant, Geddes, and Conca.**

11/22/21 Minutes: **HG moved to approve; Caulton seconded; approved by roll call vote 5/0 with Conca abstaining due to having been absent.**

3/19/21 Minutes: Conca inquired about the mention in the minutes that DeFant and Bracebridge were authorized to oversee access to the Historical Commission storage closet in Old Town Hall. Caulton noted that this was not the right time for this question. **Motion to approve: Geddes; Stone seconded; approved by roll call vote 4/0 with Conca and Czwewonka abstaining due to having been absent.**

3/24/21 Minutes: **HG moved to approve; Caulton seconded; approved by roll call vote 6/0.**

5/26/21 Minutes: **Geddes moved to approve with minor edits; Czerwonka seconded; approved by roll call vote 5/0 with Conca abstaining due to having been absent.**

FY21 Annual Report: Geddes suggested minor edits about importance of Ceremonial Stone Landscapes to tribal communities and Indigenous researchers. **DeFant moved to approve; Geddes seconded; Approved by roll call vote 5/0 with Conca abstaining.**

CPA Proposal to Repair Old Guideboard on Town Common: DeFant distributed a draft Determination of Eligibility to use Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds to repair the old guideboard. It needs repainting and minor repairs. She has been speaking with vendors to get quotes on the work. She asked the Commission whether it would like to see the old lettering preserved or to have it repainted in keeping with the original style. She expressed concern that the repair work may not be sufficient if the guideboard is not thoroughly scraped, reprimed, and painted before lettering is done. Caulton expressed that he would like to see the overall look of the guideboard be preserved to maintain its authenticity. Stone noted she needed to get MHC approval for the War Memorial repair project. DeFant asked what kind of approval from Town Hall is needed. Becky Torres indicated the Select Board would need to sign off on the proposal. The Building Committee is an advisory committee but should be consulted. DeFant will draft a letter or call MHC to inquire about what approval is needed. Geddes will email the Select Board about getting it on their agenda for January. Bracebridge expressed gratitude that the SHC is

addressing this. She indicated that the reference to “Ripton,” a made-up name of a non-existent town was removed from the Guideboard when it was last repaired. She noted there are some documents in the SHC collection about the Ripton farce, which took place in the 1970s. The SHC considered the draft Determination of Eligibility form prepared by DeFant. The full application is due Feb. 10. The SHC would need a full budget and plan for that application. The Determination form is really a placeholder to initiate the process and ensure the project is eligible to go forward with the application process. Conca stated she did not feel comfortable voting without knowing the exact cost of the project and who would be doing the work. She suggested the Commission should use Bob Groves to do the work. Groves is considering a quote for the work. Bracebridge noted that Groves should recuse himself from any deliberation on the Building Committee if he is making a bid for the work. Caulton noted that the SHC does not need to know who the contractor will be for this step in the process. Torres clarified that the Finance Committee is not involved with the CPA approval process. The plan is to ask the Friends of the Shutesbury Historical Commission to contribute to the project. The last repair work done 15 years ago cost approximately \$2500. The current proposal is estimating costs to be \$5,000, but this may change once quotes are obtained. **Geddes moved to approve the draft CPA Determination of Eligibility form. Caulton seconded: Approved by roll call vote 5/0 with Conca abstaining.**

Next meeting would be Monday, January 3, time to be determined. Conca asked if the meeting could be at 5:00 or 5:30. Stone said it was too early for her work schedule. Czerwonka cannot make that date. The Commission had moved to change its meeting date to the first Monday of the month to accommodate Floranina, but she has not been able to make this time. Geddes noted that the availability of meeting time slots is up in the air for the coming year. He needs to consult with the Town Clerk. No decision was made regarding a change in meeting times.

Geddes moved to adjourn; Stone seconded; approved unanimously by roll call vote, 6/0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Documents Used:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes for 3/19/21, 3/24/21, 5/26/21, 10/19/21, and 11/22/21
- Draft CPA Determination of Eligibility form for repair of old guideboard on Town Common
- Draft FY21 Annual Report

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary, 4/7/22