

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 3/7/22
(approved 4/27/22)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:07 pm

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Janice Stone, Mary Lou Conca, Karen Czerwonka (joined at 7:26 pm), Greg Caulton

1/26/22 and 2/7/22 Minutes:

January 26, 2022: Stone wondered if Select Board approved guideboard project. DeFant: Select Board reviewed on 2/1/22 but didn't take a vote but did not object to project moving forward pending approval of a bid. **Geddes moved to approve; Caulton seconds; approved by roll call vote, 6/0.**

February 7, 2022: Stone: suggested minor edits; include CPA application on documents used. Conca questioned why a comment attributed to her had the phrase "equal opportunity.": DeFant: used that phrase because that was what was said in the meeting. Conca questioned the length and level of details in minutes taken by DeFant. Geddes: the minutes are summaries, not verbatim transcript. **Geddes moved to approve; Stone seconds; Caulton abstains due to having been absent; Conca abstains; Czerwonka: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye.**

Historical Districts Discussion: Conca expressed interest in establishing historic district signage in six areas of town; feels it would be a simple task; suggests starting with Shutesbury Center or Town Common; interested in researching original land deeds for town; DeFant: recent report from HC has a section on original land deeds and signatories; DeFant: historic districts can be established by listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or by a town bylaw. Conca: would like to see one large sign with historical information; not sure how residents would feel about a bylaw; HC surveyed homeowners about 20 years ago and residents did not want a historic district at that time. DeFant: Town Common was inventoried for the MHC database; historical research is in that report; listing on the NRHP makes town eligible for state grant funding; would require Select Board involvement; involving any private properties around Common would require input and consent from residents; historic districts involve preservation restrictions on properties; NRHP process takes 18-24 months; minimal restrictions; bylaw historic districts usually have more preservation restrictions; doesn't think HC can put up signs without establishing a historic district in one of these two ways; Leverett's historic districts are on the NRHP. It would be easier to nominate only the Town Common to the NRHP. Stone: not sure the Select Board would want restrictions on town buildings. DeFant: HC would need a letter of support from the Select Board to pursue NRHP nomination of Town Common. Geddes: recommends that Conca review the NRHP application and present a proposal for next steps to the HC. DeFant has distributed the NRHP website and Leverett's application to the HC.

Conca would like to see historic signage for cemeteries in town; suggests reaching out to the Cemetery Commission. Stone: had investigated signage in past, including sign in Leverett; they are expensive. Conca will contact Cemetery Commission.

Annual Meeting: Plan Annual meeting for 4/27/22 at 7 pm. DeFant: would be good to discuss with the Friends of the SHC fundraising priorities.

Town Meeting: Annual Town Meeting is 5/21. Need handouts and a poster about Guideboard Project. Caulton willing to work on this. Need 100 copies of a summary sheet, can fund it out of the HC account.

Geddes: moved to adjourn; Stone seconded; Approved by unanimous roll call vote: 6/0.

Adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4/27/22 at 7:00 p.m.

Documents Used:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes for 1/26/22 and 2/7/22 meetings

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary, 4/27/22