

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 5/25/2022
(approved 3/1/23)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting is being recorded

Meeting start: 7:00 pm.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Greg Caulton, Janice Stone, Karen Czerwonka, Mary Lou Conca, Leslie Bracebridge (Associate Commissioner)

Commissioners Absent: Miriam DeFant (Secretary)

Review 4/27/22 minutes. DeFant submitted minor edits that were reviewed by all present. Minutes could not be approved due to lack of quorum. Geddes, Caulton and Stone were eligible to vote; Conca and Czerwonka abstained because they were not present at the 4/27 meeting. Approval of minutes postponed until next meeting on 6/22/2022.

Sign for Town Center with historical narrative. Conca and Caulton proposed to develop a narrative for a plaque to be placed on the Town Common describing pre-colonial and colonial highlights of Shutesbury's history. Of particular concern is the fact that the Indigenous legacy has never been mentioned in the past. All Commissioners embraced the idea and look forward to the proposed text with the expectation that it be based on verifiable sources of information. Bracebridge mentioned that years ago Veronica Moulton had described an Indigenous tribe (Schaghticoke) that had some connection to this area. Bracebridge followed up on the authenticity of this assertion with Dr. Margaret Bruchac, an anthropologist who gave a lecture at Spear Library and offered to verify the claim, however nothing came of it. Conca and Caulton will review the SHC document on the Town's Indigenous history as well as other sources and submit proposed text at next meeting. Geddes will contact Margaret Bruchac for any leads.

Access to the Historical Commission archives. Conca requested access to the SHC archive and Caulton offered to facilitate since he has a key.

Quabbin Park Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony. Bracebridge, Czerwonka, and Stone will attend the ceremony. Geddes reported having given DeFant the letter from the bank to confirm the SHC's annual participation in the grant program on 5/21, which presumes that the SHC has met for its annual meeting (4/27/2022) and attends the Ceremony.

Update on Guideboard Restoration. Stone noted that the Scope of the Project remains a work in progress and will follow up and report back to the Commission at the next meeting.

Update on SHRAB Grant. Caulton said there was no update but will have one for the next meeting. Bracebridge will inform the Commission when the SHRAB grant letter arrives.

Public Comments. None.

Unanticipated Business. None.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01. Caulton called the motion, seconded by Stone. All approved.

Next Meeting. The Commission discussed the date of the next meeting and considered June 22nd as a possible date instead of June 6th, which is already on the calendar. Meantime, we might keep the June 6th date in case it is needed.

Respectfully submitted by Henry Geddes, Chair, 6/16/2022