

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 6/22/222
(approved 8/10/22)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:24 pm (due to technical difficulties with Zoom)

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Greg Caulton, Janice Stone,

Commissioners Absent: Karen Czerwonka, Mary Lou Conca

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge

SHC Membership: The Select Board did not reappoint Commissioners Conca and Stone. With three vacancies, the SHC may have difficulty making quorum. There was general agreement that Stone's residency outside of town should not be a bar for her continued involvement. Stone will write to the Select Board to reaffirm her commitment and ask them to reconsider her appointment. Geddes plans to write to the Select Board, and DeFant has already done so.

Approved Minutes:

4/27/22 Minutes: **DeFant moved to approve; Geddes seconded. Approved 4/0 by roll call vote by Caulton, DeFant, Geddes, and Stone.**

5/27/22 Minutes: SHC lacks a quorum to approve. May not be able to approve them in the future if Stone and Conca are not reappointed.

Update on SHRAB Grant: DeFant asked the SHC to consider approving a change in the budget for the grant in order to purchase a 4-drawer, locking file cabinet for the storage room. Change will require using funds from the SHC annual budget and donation accounts to make up the required 25% match for the grant. Supplies have been ordered and will need to be moved to Old Town Hall. Town Administrator said that filing cabinet could be delivered to Town Hall temporarily. **Geddes moved to approve purchase of 4-drawer filing cabinet as presented; Caulton seconded; Approved by roll call vote 4/0.**

Update on CPA Guideboard on Town Common: DeFant had to temporarily step back from working on the project for a couple of months due to personal reasons. Stone has been unable to do much on it, but has been in communication with Peter Hamm, a prospective restoration specialist. She is looking for assistance in developing the Scope of Work. DeFant agrees to assist now. Stone wonders about best approach to restoration, especially regarding the cedar shingle roofing, which appears to have been added more recently, possibly in the 1960's. DeFant: Bob Groves had suggested using Freedom Gray as a metal cap because it is rust-resistant and does not stain, looks much like traditional lead caps. Geddes: Geoff Rogers, a resident, suggested using stainless steel. DeFant: stainless steel will not look traditional but it is very durable. Stone: wonders about how much effort should be devoted to making the repairs look historically accurate, how should the lettering be approached? DeFant: thinks lettering should be removed so that base can be reapplied and then recreate the current lettering style. Discussion about old photos of the structure. Appears to have had shingles in the 1930s with no cupola. Cupola is in a 1968 photo. Structure may have originally had a brick base, but base is now wood. DeFant:

current cedar shingles is not easy to maintain; relatively flat hipped roof means that shingles are going to age faster; wonders if architectural asphalt shingles or metal roofing material would be a more durable and attractive option; some types of shingles look like cedar; cedar shakes were not original to the structure as far as is known. General agreement that more investigation is needed to evaluate options. DeFant: let's invite Hamm to next meeting.

Historical Signage for Town Common Proposal: Conca proposed at last meeting that SHC develop a project for a plaque on Town Common describing Indigenous town history. Geddes: no work has been done on developing text for this project; can use the SHC's recent report as a foundation for research; MD: offers to draft a text. Caulton: any final text should be reviewed by Indigenous experts for accuracy. SHC agrees. Geddes: wonders if there is any information available about Indigenous place names; he is going to investigate this. Discussion tabled for next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 7 pm.

Geddes moved to adjourn; DeFant seconded; approved unanimously by roll call vote, 4/0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Documents Used:

- Agenda
- Draft minutes for 4/27/22
- SHRAB Institutional Re-grant Budget

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary, 6/23/22