

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

Meeting start: 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Miriam DeFant, Janice Stone, Karen Czerwonka, Bert Fernandez, Matteo Pangallo

Commissioners Absent: Greg Caulton

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge

Approve minutes:

5/25/22: SHC was unable to vote on the minutes because it lacked a quorum. Will table for next meeting.

8/10/22: SHC was unable to vote on the minutes because Czerwonka had not reviewed them. Will table for next meeting.

11/30/22: Minor spelling errors corrected. **Geddes moved to approve the 11/30/22 minutes as written. Stone: seconded. Roll Call: Czerwonka: abstain; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Fernandez: aye; Pangallo: aye; Stone: aye. So moved.**

Guideboard Restoration Project: DeFant updated SHC on feedback from consultant Peter Hamm. Hamm reexamined structure; he and preservationist Mary Lou Davis feel this is a rare structure that should be preserved; they recommend creating a replica of the guideboard because he believes it may be too fragile to restore. Paint is in very bad condition. Much of the layers of paint have to be removed to get a surface that can be repainted. Paint is failing and delaminating from wood. Hamm would be willing to do a restoration, but he would need a different decorative painter. The Select Board discussed the issue at a recent meeting but did not consider the recommendation that the guideboard be moved to a weather-protected location and installed as a museum exhibit with interpretive signage. Replication is not eligible for CPA funds, but CPA funds could be used for an assessment. SHC had discussed inquiring as to whether the new library site could be a location for a display with the guideboard, but this has not been presented to the Library Building Committee. SHC discussed getting a second opinion from another vendor. DeFant will pursue other vendors for feedback. SHC agreed that the Select Board will need more information to make an informed decision. Bracebridge noted that the guideboard has been rebuilt and repaired many times over its life; she is not certain much of the structure is original at this point. Bob Groves did the last repair. Pangallo expressed an interest in getting a paint analysis to determine how much of the structure is original. SHC discussed that any restoration should preserve the guideboard's current appearance, rather than trying to make it look like it did a hundred years ago. According to Hamm, the best location for the structure would be a weather-protected but unheated location.

Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report: Geddes moved to approve the draft as written. Stone: seconded. Roll Call: Czerwonka: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Stone: aye; Fernandez: aye; Pangallo: abstain. So moved.

Discussion about how to distribute documents for meetings: Czerwonka does not have computer access and needs hard copies of documents before meetings. Geddes agreed to get copies of documents delivered to her home.

Motion to adjourn: Pangallo; Geddes seconded. Roll Call: Czerwonka: aye; DeFant: aye; Geddes: aye; Fernandez: aye; Pangallo: aye; Stone: aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Next meeting: Wed; February 22, 2023 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary, 2/20/23

Documents Used:

Agenda

Draft minutes for 11/30/22

Draft FY 22 Annual Report