

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 3/29/23
(approved 6/28/23)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Matteo Pangallo, Miriam DeFant, Janice Stone

Commissioners Absent: Bert Fernandez, Karen Czerwonka

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge (Associate Commissioner)

Approve minutes:

3/01/22: Minutes are not ready for review.

Guideboard Restoration Project:

Got a proposal from the Williamstown Art Conservation Center to do a site visit and assessment of what type of restoration is needed. They restore antique structures with a team of specialists. Spoke with Christine Puza who does wood object/structure decorative painting and analysis. She would do an assessment to propose what kind of treatment is needed and whether restoration is possible. They charge for the service and travel. Cost would be between \$500-\$800. Even if we want to get a proposal from Peter Hamm, we still need a decorative painter. Pangallo: agrees, good to get an evaluation. DeFant: understand the assessment is covered under terms of the grant; there was discussion at a CPC meeting whether funding for this could be covered under the CPC administrative budget. Pangallo: there is probably enough in our fund; CPC would have to vote to use it; this evaluation is eligible under the grant. DeFant: would like some clarification about timelines for the grant. Pangallo: this evaluation is part of the project moving forward. DeFant asked SHC to approve going forward with evaluation. Stone agrees. Geddes agrees, asks about using an art restoration expert. DeFant: guideboard is an outdoor decorative object, conservators work with painted wood objects and structures; don't want a wooden structure preservationist who specializes in buildings. Pangallo: their website indicates they specialize in restoration of outdoor objects; falls within category of decorative art Americana. **Geddes moved to allow DeFant to execute an agreement with Williams Town Art Conservation Center to conduct a site assessment of the guideboard, using CPA funds. Stone seconded. Roll Call DeFant: aye. Geddes: aye. Pangallo: aye. Stone: aye. So moved.** DeFant will set it up; will let SHC know.

West School House Cleanup: SHC discussed what is usually done to maintain the interior of the building; Bracebridge has discussed the work that has been done in past to keep interior suitable for open houses. ***Date: Saturday, May 20 @ 9 am.***

DeFant proposes SHC develop an action plan for the ongoing work on the SHC Collection. SHC worked with the SHRAB Roving Archivist Program and has a technical plan to work off of. DeFant will reach out Caulton to see what role he wants to play. Goal of effort is to make collection accessible to public and to protect it. Stone will reach out Susan Millinger to see if she has any research on Shutesbury residents from past Celebrate Shutesbury events.

Follow-Up Discussion about Future SHC Projects: SHC discussed potential stone wall mapping project to identify historical resource areas in Town. Table for future discussion.

Geddes moved to adjourn. Stone seconded. Roll Call: DeFant: aye. Geddes: aye. Pangallo: aye. Stone: aye.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Next meeting: Wed; April 26, 2023 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Miriam DeFant, Secretary, April 23, 2023

Documents Used:

Agenda

Proposal from Williamstown Art Conservation Center

SHRAB Roving Archivist Report, June 2021