

Shutesbury Historical Commission

Minutes – 5/22/24
(approved - 8/14/24)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:08 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Bert Fernandez, Matteo Pangallo, Janice Stone, Karen Czerwonka (7:20PM)

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge, Mary Lou Conca

Public Comment

None at this time.

Review & approve previous meeting minutes

Geddes has been told by the Town Clerk that the Historical Commission can approve minutes including a member that was not present voting to approve the minutes. Commission discussed and determined that they did not need to provide minutes for the 9/26/23 meeting with the Selectboard, since there was not a Historical Commission quorum and the Selectboard will have minutes for that meeting. Geddes will check on having minutes to approve for 1/10/24 at the next meeting.

Minutes for 10-25-23. Pangallo made the motion, seconded by Fernandez, to accept the minutes as presented. Czerwonka, Geddes, Fernandez, Pangallo, and Stone voted affirmative.

Minutes for 11/13/23. Geddes made the motion, seconded by Fernandez, to accept the minutes as presented. Approved by Czerwonka, Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo and Stone.

Minutes for 3/13/24. Fernandez made the motion, seconded by Pangallo, to accept the minutes as presented. Approved by Czerwonka, Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo and Stone.

Town Guide Board & Gazebo updates

Pangallo told the Commission that he checked in with the Williamstown Art Conservation Center on the status of the Guide Board. They responded on 5/15 that they are still doing the paint removal, so no precise estimate of work completion is possible yet. They suggest it will probably take until late Fall or early 2025, probably the latter, before the work is done.

Fernandez reported he had sent an email to the Commission members with the plans and an estimate from Hampshire Lumber for the materials for the protective structure, the Gazebo. The materials are estimated to cost \$4800, but the labor will all be donated for the construction of the structure. He does not know how long the offer of the free labor will be available, and wondered whether the work could be done this summer. Commission discussed timing if they applied for a grant from CPC to cover the cost of the materials, versus when will the Guide Board be back and needing the protective structure? The CPC grant proposal would have to go to vote at Town Meeting this winter. It was also suggested the Commission might be able to apply for another grant through MHC (MA Historical Commission), but that would be next year's cycle. The plans and Master Carpenter volunteer labor are ready now, and the time of the return of the Guide Board is uncertain. Where could it be stored for the winter if it came back then and the Gazebo was not ready?

Fernandez told the Commission he sent copies of the Gazebo plans and location to the Highway Dept. (no problem), and Chief of Police (no response) as suggested by the Commission. It will also need approval by the Selectboard (on the Common) and would be good to have the Building Committee approval as well.

Commission discussed the option of paying for the materials out of existing funds, in order to get the Gazebo built this year and ready for the Guide Board. There was some uncertainty about how much money was in different accounts, and what has already been set aside for this project. Geddes will check with the Town Accountant and report back at the next meeting. Fernandez suggested the next step to get things done will be for the Commission to vote to approve the construction of the Gazebo, according to the proposed plans, and the source of funds for the work.

West Schoolhouse Update

Fernandez has been going over there, checking on it. A branch went through the roof during a recent windstorm. Steve Dalmus from the Building Committee will be going over to do the repair from inside the attic. It will be patched with metal and then the shingles. Regarding the rodent (mice) situation, there had been no rodents for two months, and then this last time there were 4, so he will be checking again.

Membership

Pangallo says he knows someone who might be interested, especially in archiving records. Stone checked the town website to find out who is up for reappointment. Geddes and Czerwonka are. Both have agreed they would like to continue on the Commission.

Memorial Day program Sunday May 26 at the Quabbin Park Cemetery.

The event is this coming weekend. It involves a couple people to walk with the Shutesbury Historical Commission banner in the small parade around the ceremony site and attend the Memorial Day service there. The parade starts at 11 AM and the service is over by noon. Czerwonka and her husband have done it for many years, as has Bracebridge. The Czerwonkas will not be able to do it this year for personal reasons. Stone is willing to do it again, but it is much easier if there is a second person to help handle the large handmade banner. Bracebridge has already agreed to help someone else at the event, but will take care of the banner before and after. Pangallo agreed to attend with Stone. The Commission receives funds from the Schmidt Trust each year for participating, and all the Quabbin Historical Commissions participate.

Next Meeting

Commissioners decided on **Wednesday June 19th at 7 PM** for the next meeting. Meetings are still being held by Zoom. Geddes will get the Commission financial information to members before the meeting.

Adjournment

Pangallo moved to adjourn. Czerwonka seconded. Czerwonka, Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo, & Stone voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Stone