

Shutesbury Historical Commission

Minutes – 6/19/24
(approved - 10/15/24)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:02 p.m.

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

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge

Public Comment

None at this time.

Review & approve previous meeting minutes

Minutes for 1/10/24.

Stone requested a slight change in wording in the paragraph on Guideboard Restoration Update. She would like it to say that she *suggested*, rather than *insisted*, “that we give WACC a deadline...” She does not feel any need for insistence and doesn’t think she would have used that word. Geddes made the motion, seconded by Pangallo, to accept the minutes as amended. Czerwonka, Geddes, Fernandez, Pangallo, and Stone voted affirmative.

Minutes for 5/22/24.

Commission agreed to consider these minutes next time, as not all of the Commissioners were ready to vote on them.

Update on Town Guide Board & Gazebo

Pangallo stated he wrote up the application to the CPC for the construction of a gazebo to protect the Guideboard when it comes back to the Town Common. He stated the Commission could request an off-cycle review for the chance to be ready to vote on it (if approved) at the Fall Town Meeting instead of waiting until Spring. Commission can decide whether to apply for this off-cycle review or not, but will check with Building Committee first for input on the design of the gazebo.

Pangallo stated he had no new information from WACC (Williamstown Art Conservation Center) on the status of the repair of the Guideboard.

Fernandez suggested the Commission review and vote to approve the plans for the gazebo. Then he can send the approved plan to the Building Committee for review and comments. Fernandez made the motion, seconded by Stone, for the Commission to approve the plans for the design and building of the gazebo as a protective covering for the Guideboard, as shown in the plans sent to the Historical Commission. Czerwonka, Geddes, Fernandez, Pangallo, and Stone voted affirmative.

Commission discussed the estimated cost for the lumber and materials for the gazebo. They will wait on any final decisions on spending until the balances on their accounts have been confirmed.

Update on West Schoolhouse

Fernandez reported that Steve Dalmus from the Building Committee has completed the repairs to the schoolhouse roof. Fernandez was present at that time.

Protecting Historical Items on Public Property

Chief Burgess received a request to do metal detecting on town property, with a question as to whether there were any rules about this. This led to a discussion at this meeting about what rules might apply, either town or state, such as MA Historical Commission (MHC). The Town has a Selectboard approved policy of no digging on the Common. There is no known policy for other town lands.

Pangallo told the Commission he had checked with MHC about this. There is a state requirement that a person receive a permit from the state for any field investigation on any state property. Commission discussed adopting the same language as the state for the Historical Commission and excavating on town properties. It could be posted on the town website for the general public, and the Commission would notify the police & selectboard. Pangallo will send the MHC info to the Commission, and perhaps check with Town Counsel. Does Amherst have anything like this, or other neighboring towns?

Membership

There is no one ready to join right now. What can the Commission do to drum up interest?

Open Meeting Law and public documents

So far zoom meetings are still allowed for town and state boards, committees and commissions. There are some conflicting bills on it though.

Unanticipated Business

Fernandez had questions about the status of the Friends of the Shutesbury Historical Commission. Bracebridge explained that all the long-time Board members stepped down, and the Friends organization is in flux. There still are some members, and there should be an Annual Report. They are allowed to raise money, which the Historical Commission is not legally allowed to do. Stone will check with Joan Hanson about what needs to be done. Stone, a member of the Friends group, would be willing to help with some fundraising.

Next Meeting

Commissioners decided on **Wednesday August 14th 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. Fernandez seconded. Czerwonka, Fernandez, Geddes, Pangallo, & Stone voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Stone