

Shutesbury Historical Commission
Minutes – 11/19/24
(approved – 1/15/25)
Virtual Meeting

Meeting start: 7:03 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Henry Geddes (Chair), Bert Fernandez (7:10), Matteo Pangallo, Janice Stone

Others Present: Leslie Bracebridge

Public Comment

None at this time.

Review & approve previous meeting minutes

No draft minutes ready for review.

Update on Town Guide Board

Commission discussed the recommendations for the restoration of the Guideboard by Steve Smulski, which were approved by the Selectboard at their last meeting. Geddes and Pangallo spoke with Peter Mahoney at the WACC (Williamstown Art Conservation Center) about how to handle the wood to protect it outdoors. WACC reaffirmed that it should be put under a protective structure, and that estimating it would be 10 years before it needed to be restored again is probably “generous”. WACC suggests checking it every two years. Commission discussed how the decision had been made by the Selectboard and Building Committee not to protect it, but just return it to the Common. Now we need to do the best we can to prepare it for life outdoors. Pangallo stated that the primary concern now is the question of cost, for the concrete foundation, certain shingles, special paint etc. Besides the current work to be done, there will be more in the future. Will the Selectboard cover that expense, or will the Historical Commission be responsible for the maintenance? Perhaps the Building Committee can provide the funds & work necessary to create the concrete base. The Guideboard structure must be 2” above the concrete base. We had experienced people willing to volunteer for the gazebo, but now the work has changed and we need to find a way to get this work done.

Commission discussed applying for funds from CPAC (Community Preservation Act Committee) for the additional work. Either the Historical Commission could apply, or the Building Committee could. A Determination of Applicability is due soon, but since some funds have already been provided for the Guideboard restoration, the additional work created by the Selectboard decision should be eligible as well? Perhaps it could be a joint application (Building Committee and Historical Commission).

Commissioners discussed what to tell WACC to do for the rest of the restoration. Have them follow Smulski’s recommendations in his letter to the Selectboard? (see Smulski’s letter to the Selectboard dated 10/11/24). The Commission needs to ask WACC if the recommendations from Smulski (not including the concrete base) will cost more. This may require a change in contract and cost. The original cost for the first phase was \$17,312. Pangallo will reach out to the Building Committee about this concrete work, cost and CPAC application. Geddes will help Pangallo with letter to Building Committee.

Update on Historical Commission account

Geddes met with Gail Weiss, the town accountant again. Balance is \$17,889.16, with 50% of the cost of the Guideboard restoration (\$8656) taken out at this point. It should have come out of the CPAC grant, but did not. Weiss said she will not be able to correct that until July.

Commissioners had questions and comments about this. Bracebridge asked whether the \$1000 donation from the Friends of the Historical Commission was included in the ledger. Had it been received, and has it been used yet? Stone will check with Joan Hanson. Bracebridge also asked the Commission if they have any plans for the \$360 that is still in their annual budget. They should consider how they want to spend it, rather than lose it.

Unanticipated Business

Commission discussed advertising again for people interested in serving on the Historical Commission. The Commission is required to have a minimum of 3 members. There are presently 5 members, but can have up to 7.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Janice Stone