

## Minutes

### SUDBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Those Present: Barbara Bahlkow, Chris Hagger, Bill Johnson, Diana Warren, Jan Costa, Lyn MacLean, Fred Bautze  
Guests: Liz Radoski, Mr. Curley

The first order of business was to review past Sudbury Historical Commission (SHC) Chair functions and assign to SHC members. Chris will chair SHC meetings, have the meeting agenda posted, develop meeting minutes, serve as SHC liaison to Sudbury Planning Director, become familiar with Town owned historic structures, represent SHC at Town Meeting, continue to support additional building inventories and work with the SHC database support staff. Lyn will coordinate with the Boy Scout projects, work with the building department for any support needed for the Hosmer House (HH), filing paperwork in the HH office, assist Chris with Town owned Historic structures, schedule HH cleanings, and provide HH history lessons to Sudbury. Bill will report HH alarm system faults, work with Park & Rec on HH landscaping and support Jan to obtain HH open house decorators and docents. Fred will be responsible for handling Historic Property sign requests. SHC members will share responsibility to pick up HH phone messages and respond when they are inside HH. Responsibility for the art room and painting inventory was not assigned at this point.

The open position of Vice-Chair was discussed. Jan who had previously expressed interest in this position stated that she is not able at this time to commit to it. It was discussed and agreed to that this position could be filled for six month increments to allow more SHC members to obtain experience in this role and to make it easier for members to commit to it. It was agreed that filling this position would be determined at the next SHC meeting.

Liz Radoski, a former SHC member, who has overseen the restoration of Sudbury's cemeteries for many years, provided an update on the restoration status. She stated that the Wadsworth Cemetery tombstone preservation efforts work should be completed by the end of the summer 2018.

There was discussion of the placement of a plaque on the Hearse House highlighting its history.

There was discussion that a finding of moisture within the new Revolutionary War Cemetery Kiosk would be remediated by the Boy Scout who recently built it.

Barbara led a discussion of the town owned Frost Farmhouse (148 North Road) and the need to have restoration work done on the outside of the structure and questioned whether CPA funding could be a source for its restoration. It was unclear to SHC members what the Town plans are for its future use. Lyn and Chris to inquire about this from the Town Manager.

As a result of the above discussion, Diana Warren offered to obtain a list from the Town of all Town owned Historic Structures so the SHC can review and prioritize future efforts.

A public hearing was held at 7:30pm on an application for demolition for 16 August Road which was built prior to 1940. A quorum of SHC had previously performed an exterior site inspection of the property with the applicant. The SHC chair advised the SHC that the Demolition Delay Bylaw requires the SHC to determine whether the structure has historical significance or not. Each SHC member and the applicant had an opportunity to express their opinions on whether the structure at 16 August Road was historically significant. A motion that 16 August Road was not historically significant passed on a 5-2 vote. The majority stated that the structure had been added onto, it was not in its original condition, its style and vintage could not be determined based on its past modifications, and it doesn't look like a lakeside cottage. The minority stated that there are very few cottages left in this part of Sudbury with features resembling cottages and in particular resembling the features of the single inventoried cottage at 524 Hudson Road such as 1 ½ story, similar massing, gable ends, plain trim, cement block foundation and porches whose features are all exhibited by 16 August Road, not all cottages were built on a lake, and the very few pre 1940 existing cottages all have some modifications to them including the cottage at 92 Butler Road that the SHC has decided to have a building inventory form completed on it. Chris will submit a letter to the Sudbury Building Inspector and the Town Planner with the results of this determination.

There was a discussion of the pros/cons of setting up a Friends of the Hosmer House 501c(3) nonprofit to allow volunteers to focus on fundraising and support of the Hosmer House. Information was shared regarding similar groups in Sudbury such as the Friends of the Library and Senior Center. This would also provide a group that former SHC members could join and support HH. Opinions were shared on how the SHC would interact with such a group. Barbara will research more specifics on developing such a group.

Barbara reviewed a draft HH Policy & Procedure for Safety & Security including it's list of topics. SHC members provided feedback on the topics. The SHC suggested she look into museum professional organizations which may already have similar Policy & Procedures and/or templates that could be helpful with the HH P&P.

There was a discussion on HH handicap access. Chris reviewed his conversation with Bethany Brown of the Civil Rights Division of the Mass Attorney General's office. She indicated that for public meetings, the ramp of the HH needs to be in place and the bathroom needs to be handicap accessible if it is made available to the public. She went on to state that a bathroom that is locked and not made accessible to the public is technically in compliance with the law. She stated that the above does not apply to HH museum open houses. Diana reviewed her conversations with the Sudbury ADA Compliance Manager who recommended the SHC consider public meetings at another Town facility and the Building Inspector who suggested that the SHC consider hiring an architect to design a new ramp. It was agreed that the next public meeting will be held in another Town owned facility.

The April 30<sup>th</sup> SHC meeting minutes were approved by a 7-0 vote.

Upcoming HH open house events were discussed. There is a June 14<sup>th</sup> HH rental by the School department. Barbara and Lyn will be present. It was agreed that the Memorial Day event hours will be 11am-2pm. Advertising for the event was reviewed and volunteer assignments were reviewed. The

Holiday Open House was discussed. It was reported that all decorators are returning, there is a June 18<sup>th</sup> decorators meeting at HH and there is a great response from the HH docents to assist with this Open House.

The fundraiser's report was reviewed. It was recommended that Barbara check into the Wayland Depot for possible sale of HH items.

The treasurer's report was reviewed. Jan asked SHC members attending the upcoming History Conference to provide her with receipts by June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lyn made a motion to recommend continued employment of Stephanie Nosal to input historical letters and photos into the Florence Hosmer family database under the direction of the SHC at a maximum cost of \$3000 for FY 2019. It was passed on a 6-1 (abstention) vote.

Chris encouraged all SHC members to attend the May 16<sup>th</sup> Open Meeting Law training at Sudbury Town Hall.

Lyn informed the SHC that she was obtaining a cost estimate for a fence replacement at the Haynes Garrison Site. She was encouraged to provide the estimate to the Town for fence replacement. Lyn also informed the SHC that a new sign describing the Haines Garrison Site was to be installed.

The SHC agreed that a building inventory form be developed by the Town Planner for 70 Butler Road as another pre 1940 example of a cottage.

The next meeting of the SHC will be Tuesday at 7pm on June 19<sup>th</sup>.

List of documents and other exhibits used at meeting: Past Chair functions list, SHC Fundraiser's Report, SHC Treasurer's Report