



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

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MINUTES

OCTOBER 17, 2019 AT 5:00 PM

SILVA ROOM, FLYNN BUILDING, 278 OLD SUDBURY ROAD, SUDBURY, MA

Members Present: Chris Hagger, Jan Costa, Taryn Trexler, Fred Bautze, Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, and Margi Katz

Members Absent: Fred Taylor

Guest: Lyn MacLean

First topic for discussion was the future sustainability of the Hosmer House. Chris summarized the January 29, 2019 meeting and the various concerns and options that had been discussed at that meeting regarding future management, use, upkeep, and finances of the House. He noted that the Open Houses were still working well and that Facilities had taken over many of the day to day facility issues.

Diana Cebra then handed out a draft job description (Responsibility of Hosmer House Manager) for future management of the Hosmer House. Prior to discussing job requirement specifics, a robust visionary discussion ensued. All agreed that the Hosmer House could not function exactly as it does today due to fewer and aging volunteers and dwindling funds. All agreed that it is imperative to keep the House relevant. There was disagreement, however, as to how. Should it function as museum or an historic house? Should it continue to be open to the public on a limited basis or should its usage be greatly expanded? Should more educational programs and events be offered, especially with Lincoln Sudbury High School? Should the Hosmer House continue to function as a stand alone entity? If so, is a much larger emphasis on fundraising necessary? If not, should it to be managed in conjunction with the Loring Parsonage or by an existing town employee (under the direction of an Historic Commissioner). Concerns were also raised about obtaining and retaining docents once the History Center opens.

Upon completion of the visionary discussion, it was agreed that employing a part-time person to manage the Hosmer House would be advisable. Diana Cebra then presented, and the Commission discussed, the job description that she drafted for a manager position. Again, there was much discussion and some disagreement as to the scope and breadth of the job. Finally, it was agreed that the job description contained, and should continue to contain short term goals (immediate needs) and long term goals. Two of the short term and immediate goals agreed upon

are updating the website and enhancing our public relation activities. See attached draft job description.

Chris confirmed that the site visit for 200 Horse Pond Road would take place on Monday October 25th at 9:30 a.m.; that it would not be a posted meeting; that we could view the interior as well as the exterior of the house; and that we could take pictures if desired.

Chris reported that the visit to Carding Mill that had tentatively been scheduled for October 25th needed to be rescheduled. The two new potential dates are November 8th at 11:00 or November 15th at 11:00. The Acting Town Manager will decide.

Diana Warren reported on the last CPC meeting. She stated that the CPC had several questions about the need for Home Surveys. They asked that the Historic Commission provide them with a list of the potential properties that could be surveyed, the rationale for the surveys and the rates of three potential surveyors by November 1st. Diana Warren agreed to develop the list of potential homes and Taryn agreed to provide the rationale and rate information.

Diana Warren then reported on the latest development with the Stone Farm. According to her, citizens have formulated a petition to call a special town meeting in order to allow a vote on the creation of a new local historic district for the Stone Tavern property. Because the Selectmen did not call for a Fall Town Meeting, the Committee cannot submit articles to the Town Meeting. As a result, the interested citizens are calling for a special Town Meeting under Massachusetts Law Chapter 408D to bring this to a vote. In order to do so, the petition must be put out for signing by October 29th. Before the citizens can put the petition out for signing they must have a map plan defining the boundaries of the proposed historic district which has to be printed on the petition and become an appendix to the warrant. Citizens, however, cannot ask the engineering department to provide such a plan; it must be solicited from the Historical Commission. Thus, the citizen asked, through Diana Warren, for assistance from the Historic Commission. By a vote of 5-1(1 abstention) the SHC voted to have the Historic Commission request the Engineering Department to provide a plan of Sudbury, MA. for a Stone Tavern Farm Historic District with the legal parcel number (3 acres abutting 554 Boston Post Road.) Diana W. agreed to facilitate the matter.

List of Documents and other Exhibits used at the meeting:

Draft Responsibilities for the Hosmer House Manager