

**Dighton Historical Commission**  
**1111 Somerset Ave**  
**Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom**  
**August 8, 2023 - 6:00 PM**

Present: Pat Gailes, Rafa Delfin, Pat Olsen, Irene Allie, David Marvill, Zach Caron

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:01 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
  - Minutes of June 13, 2023  
Motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023 as amended. Moved by Zach Caron. Seconded by Allie. All in favor.
  - Minutes of July 11, 2023  
Motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023 as amended. Moved by Zach Caron. Seconded by Olsen. All in favor.
4. Budget
  - Final FY 23 Budget – All bills paid. Gailes checked with Town Accountant Sirena today; all our bills have been paid. We have \$211.21 that went back to free cash.
  - FY24 Budget balance of \$1400 that was approved plus the \$500 we encumbered from FY23 for the CAI Technologies.
5. Unfinished Business
  - Discuss/Review James Briggs Garden sign  
Gailes received an e-mail from Jenna Monteiro who said that her group is not yet ready for the dedication ceremony until the Fall or early Spring of 2024. Delfin asked about the garden and its current situation which looks like a "jungle."
  - Review/Discuss/ Act Historical Commission 50<sup>th</sup> – Time Capsule – Delfin shared information about plexiglass price (he checked the Lowe's website). He said there's no difference between Plexiglass and acrylic. Based on Lowe's pricing, the cheapest is \$23.68 per sheet (for the smallest one which is 28" x 30"). The most expensive is \$267 for 48" X 96". Thickness is 0.22". We first have to decide on the size of the capsule before we can order the customized plexiglass case. Gailes spoke with Librarian Jocelyn Tavares who said that the Library Board of Trustees are meeting on August 10 and Jocelyn will add the capsule discussion to their next agenda (i.e. the possibility of putting the capsule at Smith Memorial Hall). Gailes asked Delfin if he could make it to the Thursday meeting and Delfin said yes. Zachary mentioned the Dighton map that was donated that should also be included in the agenda. Gailes shared a news article from 1992 that featured a time capsule (from 1934) that was buried somewhere in Dighton Middle School (exact location unknown). Olsen will reach out to former commission member Colette McKeon who may have more information about the 1934 time capsule. Gailes said that we have to collect items at the Firecracker Festival to be

stored in the 2023 time capsule which we will publicize on social media and that we reserve the right to reject or accept an item.

- Discuss/Review/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton – Zach said that there is no law saying that you have to issue release forms for recordings but all legal recommendations suggest that you get them. There are types of releases on oral history and examples that can be found in the library. The interview subjects can choose whether or not if they want their identities published, or which stories they want to be published. We need to provide reasons as to why we are pursuing this project (refer to the Mission Statement of the Commission). Lengthy discussion on how we are going to conduct the interviews, who the initial interviewees will be, and what kind of stories should be covered.
- Discuss/Act – Firecracker Festival on September 9. Gailes contacted Mallard's Printing and they gave her a quote of \$188 for 200 silicone bracelets of assorted colors. Motion to purchase silicone bracelets from Mallard Printing for \$188. Moved by Delfin. Seconded by Marvill. All in favor. Gailes suggested that we bring the historical maps that the public can look at. Historical Marker forms will also be available. Delfin will bring his historical marker for display. We will continue promoting the Segreganset School House by distributing flyers. Bring your own chairs and wear your Commission t-shirts.
- Review/Discuss/Act America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – We will be on the BOS agenda for August 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM
- Review Draft of Certificate of Appreciation/Letter of Thanks to Bristol-Plymouth – Delfin presented a draft of the certificate and letter which has been approved by the Commission.

## 6. Preservation Planning

- Discuss/Review/Act – Response from MHC on Lower Four Corners Area. Gailes said that MHC (Mass. Historical Commission) determined that the Lower Four Corners Area is not eligible for application to the NRHD (National Register of Historic District). Gailes read the letter from MHC. Gailes asked if we should write a response to MHC. Discussion on the issue of preserving original materials (which could be costly) versus using new materials that resemble the original. We need to ask guidance from MHC as far as what constitutes historical restoration/preservation. Gails suggested that we contact NPS (National Park Service with copy to MHSC) with concerns about the use of materials and integrity of the area versus losing the historical content that makes Dighton. Gailes asked if it would be worth pursuing NRHD eligibility for the Carnegie Building, the Community Church and maybe Rufus Whitmarsh house. Gailes will reach out to the owner of the Whitmarsh house. Should we send a letter to property owners in Lower Four Corners Area to notify them if their property is eligible for historical recognition? Perhaps they would be interested in a historical marker or just in discussing the historical significance of their property?
- Discuss/Review/Act - Walking Tour of Dighton's National Register Districts. We decided to schedule the tour for September 30 (Saturday). Time will be determined. Limit group size to 10 to 15 people in order for everyone to hear. We will lead two groups: one at 12 Noon and another at 2 PM. Each tour will last for less than an hour. Interested participants will have to register. Marvill will bring a camera to record the event which we will publicize on our Facebook page. We will hand out informational brochure on the districts to all the participants.
- Discuss/Review/Act Community-wide Survey Update – Phase 2. Discussion on the Survey Forms for these areas: Lincoln Avenue Area, 127 Summer Street, 12 Summer Street, 136 Summer Street and School Street Area. We all agree that Stacey Spies did a wonderful job writing the survey forms, but Olsen commented that the forms lacks personal history. Gailes said that Stacey is aware of the personal stories but due to time constraint she did not include them. However, Gailes said that personal stories can be added in the continuation sheets of the forms.

- Historical Marker Program – Delfin checked the current DIG form of the Old Town Hall on MACRIS but it's the old one; it hasn't been updated by Stacy. Delfin will submit the application form for a marker. Gailes will find out who among town employees will be responsible for signing the form.

7. New Business

- Review/Discuss 2120 Water Street – Gailes was notified that the building inspector is commencing demolition proceeding on the historical house at 2120 Water Street based on the MA State Building Code for “Unsafe Structures”. The house has been broken into again.

8. Public Input - none

9. Reorganization of the Historical Commission - Nominations for chair, vice chair, clerk. Delfin motioned to nominate Gailes as chair; all in favor. Zach Caron motioned to nominate Delfin as vice-chair; seconded by Allie; all in favor. Gailes motioned to nominate Delfin as clerk; seconded by Zach; all in favor.

10. Other

- Open Commission position – 1
- Next Meeting Date – September 12, 2023 at 6 P.M. - Jim Aguiar will attend to speak about the column restoration at Smith Hall. Zach has offered to present his Historical Google maps project
- Conferences - Preservation Massachusetts has canceled their conference in October and may reschedule for a later date.
- Copies of Town Annual Reports – the Dighton Historical Society now has a complete set thanks to Pat Olsen for sorting them out. The reports date back as the early 1800s. Gailes asked if the Commission would be interested in copies of the reports (hard copies) which can be accessed at DHS.
- Olsen mentioned a free program that is going to be offered on Sept. 7, Thursday, 11 AM, at the Old Colony Historical Museum in Taunton. The talk is going to be on the Myles Standish prisoner of war camp. At one point, the site was considered as a candidate for the United Nations headquarters.

11. Correspondence - none

12. Adjournment – Zach Caron motioned to adjourn; seconded by Irene Allie; all in favor. Adjourned at 7:50 PM

CORRECTED on 11/1/2023 (from the recording of DHC meeting on 10/10/2023)