

Patricia Gales
Nov. 9, 2024

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
December 12, 2023 - 6:00 PM
Present: Pat Gales, Rafa Delfin, Zach Caron, Irene Allie

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:04 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
 - Minutes of October 10, 2023
Motion to approve the minutes of October 10, 2023 as amended/submitted. Moved by Zach; seconded by Irene. All in favor.
4. Budget
 - FY 24 Balance and Expenses
 - Balance is \$1212.
 - Encumbered balance is \$260
 - Segreganset School gift account balance is \$5683.34
FY25 budget planning will be discussed in the January 2024 meeting
5. Unfinished Business
 - Review/Discuss/ Act Historical Commission 50th – Time Capsule – Gales spoke with the Board of Trustees of the Library about storage of the time capsule and they agreed to work with the commission when Smith Memorial Hall opens as the library. Zach said he visited the Somerset Historical Society last week to check its time capsule; Rafa exclaimed that he had also visited the Society and saw its time capsule. Rafa said he met with the Society's director John Larsen. Zach showed images of the time capsule from his laptop computer. The Somerset time capsule is an antique post office wooden mail holder cubby with shelves that store old letters, documents, and memorabilia. It is protected with plexiglass. Zach suggests that we commission the vocational school to build something similar for the Dighton time capsule, or we can go to an antique store and find one. Gales commented that we have some old cabinets in the Segreganset School House that we could use as capsule. Zach said that it would be like a museum piece where you can see items behind the glass though you would not know what it is. Lengthy discussion on the pros and cons of this type of "time capsule." Gales commented that people should be aware of the difference between "society" (a private agency) and "commission" (a governmental agency), though it doesn't mean that the commission cannot do things that a society can. She also suggested that we extend our invitation to people who wish to contribute to our time capsule and Rafa will draft a letter about this. We can keep all contributions temporarily in the Town Hall vault until the Smith Memorial Library is open.
 - Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton – Gales presented a copy of the The Oral History Manual and she suggested that we purchase a copy for our own use. It sells currently on Amazon for \$46.74. Motion to purchase the Oral History Manual price not to exceed \$50. Moved by Zach; seconded by Irene. All in favor.
Discussed recommendations for preserving Dighton memories. Should we use Flash drive-google drive or one drive. Zach said that the Town must have a digital drive to store all town - related documents; he asked if we could use that drive, or could we get our own drive. He will talk with the IT people to see which type of drive is best.
 - Review/Discuss/Act America's 250th Anniversary
Gales said that Myrna Santos, town historian and Ray Hague, veterans' agent have agreed to be on the committee. The Community Church representative is Karin Potter. Gales said she knows two people considering the at-large-member positions. The BOS will have this on their next meeting agenda. They will name one department head to the committee. We need to designate a Commission representative to the committee.

Motion to designate Pat Gales as the Historical Commission representative to the 250th Anniversary Committee. Moved by Zach; seconded by Irene. All in favor.

6. Preservation Planning

- Review/Discuss/Act – Area forms for Brick Area and South Dighton
Gales said we received a response from MHC for our request to evaluate the South Dighton and Brick Area Forms for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places. The Brick Area form (excluding the Hathaway Cemetery) is eligible for consideration to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. Criterion C is

c) embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion C, "Design/Construction", concerns the distinctive characteristics of the building by its architecture and construction, including having great artistic value or being the work of a master.

Where do we go from here? Gales would like to have separate meetings to talk about the area forms and the National Register of Historic Places. We will decide on meeting dates in January. Do we need a sub-committee to work on and make recommendations to Commission?

- Review/Discuss/Act – Carnegie Building -National Register
Gales had a conversation with the town administrator Mike Mullen regarding the Carnegie Building in the Lower Four Corners. They agreed that once the building is no longer being used as a library, the use of the building needs to be determined which could possibly alter the interior. Right now, we know that the building needs an accessible bathroom and a second egress. Makes sense to determine the usage which drives what the building needs. The building is historical and the features that make it so must be preserved while making the building functional. Consideration is being given that it is an appropriate space to house the Commission. Gales said that the building can be a shared space. Delfin said that the Commission should have the priority use of the building. Gales suggested that we check the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines on repurposing a building.

Motion to take the town historian's letter out of order. Moved by Zach; seconded by Irene. All in favor.

- Discuss/Review/Act - Walking Tour Pamphlet of Dighton's National Register Districts
Reviewed the walking tour pamphlet. Zach would like to know if he could take pictures of houses without the owners' permission. Gales said that it's okay as long as you're not in the owner's property. What should the pamphlet look like? Zach passed out copies of pamphlets from other towns. Zach showed a photo of Dighton Wharves sign and asked who made it. Gales said it might have been made in a barn or garage but the maker is unknown. Zach asked if there are artists' rendering of the Molasses Affair. Rafa asked if there are any images of Frances Dighton. Gales said there are composite images of Frances Dighton. These images could be incorporated in the pamphlet which could be ready by Spring.
- Review/Discuss – Smith Memorial Hall
Gales said that work on the interior has begun. Bristol-Plymouth Regional Technical school students are doing some of the work. No samples of exterior lighting fixtures. Zach asked if the three pillars removed from SMH could be utilized as part of the time capsule. Rafa suggested the pillars could be used a pedestal to hold up the capsule. The Library Building committee will be meeting on December 18 at 4pm at the Old Town Hall. The Town has hired a new library director, Mark Procknick, who is very interested in local history.

- Discuss/Review/Act - Community-wide Survey Update – Phase 2

Gailes received the invoice from Stacy Spies for \$25,000 which she submitted to CPC. She also received 1 copy of final Form B's, area forms and photographs of the buildings, 2 copies of final report, and flash drive of all documents from Stacy. CAI sent the hard copy map and Gailes asked Kerri Easterday to make a copy. Kerri will scan the hard copy and send it to the Assessor's office.

Copies of Survey Forms

For our Past survey, we made 2 color copies at Davol Printing. Cost estimate is \$50 for the current 92 pages for color copies. Survey copies went to town clerk for archival, 1 copy for us and 1 copy for public use at the assessor's office. Thumb drives 32gb for the planning board, library, town historian and commission. Cost \$19. Gailes will see if she can get the thumb drives from the departments to add these documents. Motion to have the color copies printed at Davol Printing not to exceed \$50. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene. All in favor.

- Review/Discuss/Act – Continuation of Community-Wide Survey

Stacy sent a sample contract for doing under 20 surveys per year; the cost is \$350 per form. Are we interested in continuing on a smaller scale? Zach asked if we should focus more on the areas instead of the buildings. Gailes will ask Stacy about the area forms. Zach asked if Stacy could join us for a special meeting; Gailes said Stacy charges \$75 for an appearance (the fee could come out of our Professional and Technical budget). The Town Administrator needs to look over the contract. Gailes proposed that we ask CPC for a small funding to pay for Stacy's appearance.

- Review/Discuss/Act- Historical Marker Program

Gailes met with the trustees who said that they are on board with historical markers for the Library Buildings. Once the Carnegie building is no longer being used it will be a town building.

Two markers were in budget for this year.

Rafa said that he went to see the sign maker five weeks ago to push for the completion of the marker for the Old Town Hall. He called the sign maker this morning and he was advised that the sign has already been made. Rafa said he was never notified about this, but the maker did apologize and said that he should have called Rafa. Zach said that he asked his father (Peter Caron) who had made the new signs for the Town Hall; Paul Pacheco made the sign. Rafa said that when he went to Somerset Historical Society, he inquired who the sign maker is for the town of Somerset as he wants to find a more reliable vendor. Rafa said that the commission should consider Paul Pacheco as a vendor. Gailes explained to Rafa how the commission will pay for the finished marker who needs to send us an invoice and a W-9 form.

- Status of Chase Street markers and Old Town Hall – Rafa said that the owners of the Chase Street markers have not gotten their markers because the current vendor (Signarama) is so slow. This is why Rafa did not put in for new request. Zach asked about the story of the Dighton town seal. Zach will get information about Paul Pacheco and will relay it to Rafa.

7. Public Input - None

8. Other

- Historical Maps of Dighton – Zach scanned a bunch of old maps that are only in hard copy; he asked if we could convert them digitally. The ones he scanned are in PNG and PDF files in high resolution where you can see all the details. He wants to overlay these maps onto the current one to see what has changed. There are not a lot of digital maps of Dighton online. He said no one has uploaded any digital maps on Google.
- CPC report – The CPC group met on October 19th. The library was awarded MA Cultural Council facilities grant of \$200,000 towards the HVAC for the 207 Main St. building. This amount will be returned to the CPC. CPC Chair Kevin Smith is looking into the details of how

the dollars will be credited – to the Historical and undesignated categories. The conservation of the historic vital records (Mark Pacheco's project) is ahead of schedule. The books are at the New England Document Center in Andover and are scanned. There was no November meeting.

- Next Meeting Date – January 9, 2024 6 PM

9. Correspondence

- Letter from Town Historian

10. Adjournment – 7:44 PM