

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
March 12, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Present: Pat Gailes, Rafa Delfin, Pat Olsen, Irene Allie, Shara Costa, Zach Caron, Dave Marvill

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order – 6:02 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
 - Minutes of February 20, 2024
Motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024 as amended/submitted. The balance was \$579.09 as corrected by Gailes. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene.
 - Minutes of February 22, 2024
Motion to approve the minutes of February 22, 2024 as amended/submitted. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene.
4. Budget
 - FY 24 Balance and Expenses
Balance is \$579.09
Segreganset Schoolhouse balance is currently \$5683.34
 - Invoices – Pat Gailes received an invoice for \$38 from Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School for the James Briggs Garden sign. She spoke to April Lima in their accounting department. An official invoice (from April 27, 2023) was never generated and it was sitting in drafts for almost a year. She spoke with Sirena the town accountant and was advised that we can submit it for payment under prior years' bills to be approved at town meeting. An article will be on the warrant. Rafa and Pat Olsen signed the invoice.
 - FY 25 Budget
 - Meeting with Finance Committee on March 28 at 7:50 PM. Gailes will be attending the meeting and others are welcome to attend.
5. Unfinished Business
 - Review/Discuss/Act – Time Capsule – Dave is seeking for historical pictures for the capsule. The contact from Somerset Historical Society never called back Rafa about the marker issue. Dave said that the recording studio at Town Hall is almost ready and it should be open soon.
 - Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton – Zach e-mailed Pat Gailes and TA Mike Mullen with the edits that Mike had made on the release form for the people that we are going to interview. Zach said that per Mullen there is no need to send the form to a third party such as a lawyer (it will not be legally binding). Motion to approve the release form pending Mullen's approval. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene. All in favor.
 - Review/Discuss/Act –Walking Tour Pamphlet of Dighton's National Register Districts
 - Gailes said that we need to reach out for the picture of the Yacht Club. We should also add a reminder that the properties are private and to stay on the public street. Zach said that Google drive account has been temporarily disabled for lack of activity; he gave us the e-mail address for the drive account.
6. New Business
 - Review/Discuss/Act – Annual Report

- Motion to approve the Historical Commission Annual Report for submission to the town report. Moved by Zach; seconded by Irene. All in favor. We all agreed that the report was well written by Gailes.

7. Preservation Planning

- Review/Discuss/Act – Working Committee for Survey forms and recommendations
Recommendation from the committee to find the Mt. Hope Finishing Company area locally significant. Gailes read brief historical background of the area. Pat Olsen noticed some inaccuracies in the survey form. Gailes suggested that the Commission do a walking tour of the area. Gailes sent a request to MHC to evaluate the Mt. Hope Finishing Company for National Register. Motion to identify the Mt. Hope Finishing Company area as locally significant in the history, architecture and culture in the town of Dighton. Moved by Pat Olsen; seconded by Zach. All in favor.

Our next work meeting is March 28 at 6 PM at the Police Station. Will have to end by 7:30 for the finance committee. Agenda will be to review the rest of the North Dighton forms including the School Street and Lincoln Avenue area forms.

- Review/Discuss/Act – Application of Eligibility for Survey Update
Motion to approve the Application of Eligibility for the Community-wide Historic Properties Survey – 2024-2025 for submission to the CPC. We are asking CPC for \$3,500 (for 10 properties). Moved by Olsen; seconded by Marvill. All in favor.
- Review/Discuss/Act - Historical Marker Program – Rafa emailed Paul Pacheco to inquire about becoming the new vendor but he hasn't heard back from him. Zach said that his father Peter Caron gave the Old Town Hall marker to Paul. Rafa asked if Paul could contact him directly.
- Review/Discuss/Act – Priorities of Historical Buildings
Town owned Historical Buildings – Old Town Hall, Segreganset School House, Smith Memorial Hall, Carnegie Building, North Dighton Fire Station. Gailes said that all these buildings need to be preserved and maintained, but which buildings get the highest priority? Lengthy discussion on the buildings' age and usage. Smith Memorial Hall's rehab is almost done. The School House has several issues such as lead, lack of HVAC, needs new coat of paint, lack of parking space, non-ADA compliant, prevailing wages, etc. Carnegie building needs a second egress and a bigger bathroom; we all agree that the building should house the Historical Commission office. Gailes said that the first priority should be Smith Memorial Hall because it has already received CPC funding. Second priority should be the Carnegie building because it could be reused right away if funding became available. Third priority could either be the School House or the Fire Station. Pat Olsen said that these buildings belong to the Town and the people should decide whether or not the Town should fund the maintenance of the buildings. Gailes said that the Commission should have an input into the rehabilitation and use of each building and that we could approach CPC for funding the rehab and maintenance of these buildings. As a commission we cannot fundraise; it would have to be the "friends" of the School House who should be doing the fundraising. Rafa thinks that School House should be the first priority because it is the oldest and several attempts in the last three decades have been made to preserve it. Zach said that in terms of need the School House should come first but in terms of "realistic potential" for use the Carnegie should come first. We will plan to visit the school house any time after the April 6 annual elections to check its current condition.

8. Public Input - None

9. Reports

- Report on DCR meeting – Rail Trail –
Gailes and Rafa met with representatives from DCR (Simon Schreier, Amber Christofferson, Kristin Karl-Camahan), Sweets Knoll, and TRWS Alliance. We walked the rail trail in Sweets Knoll and down the tracks to the railroad bridge. Sweets Knoll project is part of the Taunton River Trail. After the walk, we headed to the DCR office at Sweets Knoll for an overview of interpretative signage and how to develop. Goals and objectives will lead to the interpretative materials that will be in Sweets Knoll. We will be meeting with the representatives again to further discuss the project.
- CPC report Will meet on March 20, 2024
- Library Building Committee – Met on Monday, March 11. The Committee reviewed a rough draft of layout plans for the library to submit to MMT for design documents. Also reviewed the list of fixtures and furniture for the library. Mark is working on the pricing of fixtures and furniture.
- America's 250th Anniversary – Met on March 4. Chairperson – Pat; Vice Chair – Myrna Santos; Clerk - Robin Lacroix. The Committee brainstormed how Dighton's 250th anniversary celebrations and events should evolve. Many ideas were discussed. Will be establishing a goal with objectives and timelines. Listing of other organizations to include.

10. Other

- Next Meeting Date – April 9, 2024 6:00 PM

11. Correspondence - None

12. Adjournment – Motion by Zach to adjourn; seconded by Dave. Adjourned at 7:41 PM