

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
April 9, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Present: Patricia Gailes, Rafa Delfin, Irene Allie, Shara Costa, Patricia Olsen, Zach Caron
Guest: Paul Pacheco

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order – 6:08 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
 - Motion to take out item 6 (Review/Discuss/Act- Historical Marker Program) out of order to be discussed first. Moved by Zach Caron. Seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.
 - Review/Discuss/Act- Historical Marker Program – We had invited Paul Pacheco, a professional sign maker, to discuss ideas on how to make the new marker for the Old Town Hall to look better. We also discussed the original design and specifications of the original house marker; Delfin had brought his house marker that was used as a model for the creation of the Old Town Hall marker. Pacheco questioned the current design which he said he can duplicate, but is the material durable enough? The question was raised if "Dighton" should be used twice on the marker as in "Dighton, Massachusetts" on the top line and "Dighton Historical Commission" on the last line. Pacheco said that he can make markers using laser. We decided that the size of future new markers will be the same size as the existing ones. Pacheco assured us that he can make a much better marker for lower price than the current vendor charges for (\$126). Delfin and Pacheco will continue to correspond with each other regarding orders for new markers.
 - Minutes of March 12, 2024
Motion to accept the minutes of March 12, 2024 as submitted. Moved by Zach Caron. Seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.
Minutes of March 28, 2024
Motion to accept the minutes of March 28, 2024 as submitted. Moved by Zach Caron. Seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.
4. Budget
 - FY 24 Balance and Expenses
No expenditures this month. The balance is \$579.09. Encumbered balance is \$260
 - FY 25 Budget
Presented FY 25 budget to the BOS and Finance Committee on March 28. We asked for \$1,400.
5. Unfinished Business
 - Review/Discuss/Act – Time Capsule –
Gailes said that Somerset Public Library has two (2) time capsules in their local history room. She showed pictures of the time capsule launched in 1976 to be opened during the Tricentennial in 2076. The time capsule is a wooden box with a plaque on it. Delfin said the problem with wood is that fire can destroy it. Gailes said the size is perfect and she will ask what is contained in it.

- Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton – Zach Caron said he has not heard back from TA Mike Mullen about the release form. Gailes said she will resend the form to Mullen and also to his assistant Leeanne Kerwin.

- Review/Discuss/Act –Walking Tour Pamphlet of Dighton’s National Register Districts Gailes received two pictures from Bob at the yacht club. The pictures are those of the yacht club and the wharf.

Shara gave an update on grant request; she is still waiting to hear back from sponsor Bay Coast Bank hopefully by the beginning of May. The bank is willing to give us \$300 to be used to fund the walking tour pamphlets.

6. Preservation Planning

- Review/Discuss/Act – Working Committee for Survey forms and recommendations Committee met on March 28, 2024. School Street area form is Not recommended for listing on the National Register. Began review of Lincoln Ave – this area is also not recommended for listing. Opinion of the committee: although the architectural integrity is diminished, the history of the people who lived and worked in these areas remains important to Dighton. We will invite consultant Stacey Spies to our next meeting to advise us on the next step.

Zach and Shara are developing a database of all homes included in our survey update for our review/use and for the Historical Marker program.

Next form to be reviewed – Brick Area form.

Next meeting – April 25 at 6 PM at Police Station Conference Room.

- Review/Discuss – CPC Application for Survey Update

Gailes submitted the application for funding \$3500 for the survey of 10 properties in West Dighton to the CPC. It was reviewed and approved on April 8 and will be on the town warrant for the June Annual Town meeting. Delfin suggested that we need to “flood” the next Town meeting to persuade voters to approve the funding.

7. New Business

- Representative on Sweets Knoll Interpretive Committee

As a follow up to the meeting that Gailes and Delfin attended, Simon Schreier Regional Interpretive Coordinator; South Region for DCR has asked for one representative from the DHC to be on the team for the ongoing process of developing interpretive materials. Delfin is interested in being the representative. No one else was interested.

Motion to have Rafa Delfin as our representative to the DCR team for interpretive materials for Sweets Knoll. Moved by Pat Olsen. Seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.

8. Reports

- CPC report

CPC worked on warrant articles – one is the housekeeping article of CPC funding for FY25 which would include an estimate \$13,800 to be added to the Historical Reserves.

Besides our request for \$3,500, the Trails Committee project for Broad Cove Nature Trail was approved for \$62,500 to be placed on the warrant for annual town meeting.

- Library Building Committee

Met twice since our last meeting. Progress is being made with the work inside the building. Waiting on architect and project manager scopes and construction design plans. Will be beginning to order fixtures and furniture.

Stair design will be related to the picture of the hall in the 1912 Bicentennial book. At that time railings not required, but this time railings are needed and will be designed like the porch balusters. The next Library Building Committee meeting will be on April 29.

- America's 250th Anniversary

The Committee met last night. Discussion held regarding state wide efforts to celebrate 250th. Events discussion included encampment/reenactments, reading of the Declaration of Independence, essay contest, listing of revolutionary soldiers, walk along the Bristol path, discussion with the Native Americans. The Committee members volunteered to reach out to different civic groups. Discussion held on a logo, using social media to promote the 250th. Using the Historical Commission's Facebook page and town website page. Next meeting May 13 at 6:30 PM.

9. Other

- Rafa Delfin distributed a draft of a letter he composed and to be sent to property owners in North Dighton. He asked the Committee to review the draft.
- Massachusetts History Alliance Conference – June 3, 2024 at Devens Conference Center. Theme is History is for Everyone. More details to follow. Early bird registration starts next week.
- Next Meeting Date – May 14, 2024 6pm

10. Correspondence

Letter from MHC regarding Mt. Hope Finishing Company Village

11. Adjournment at 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rafa Delfin, 5/6/2024; Amended on 6/6/2024