

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
June 11, 2024 - 6:00 PM

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

Guest: Stacy Spies

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:05 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Working Committee for Survey forms and recommendations
 - Meeting with Stacy Spies via Zoom – The Commission asked Stacy some questions/comments about Mount Hope based on the evaluation letter by Mass. Historical Commission. How to deal with houses that had been moved? Mislabeled pictures? Would it be possible to do a National Register nomination just for the Olmstead Brothers Landscaping? Gailes asked Stacy if she could put together a proposal of what needs to be done for MHC and then go forward for the National Register; Stacy will break it down into two estimates. The Commission is planning a walk-around in North Dighton. Zach asked if there is anything that we can do to help Stacy; she said there are a couple of houses on the west side over the line in Taunton plus Olmstead stuff. Gailes asked Stacy why MHC excluded the Hathaway cemetery in the Brick area; Stacy said she doesn't know and she will contact MHC to find out. With South Dighton, Stacy will check with MHC to see what it is involved to expand the description of historical significance in the area. Zach will e-mail to Gailes the link to American Textiles website and Gailes will send the link to Stacy.
4. Preservation Planning
 - Review/Discuss/Act- Historical Marker Program – Delfin said he hasn't heard from Paul Pacheco. We will not pay him until we receive an invoice from him.
 - Review/Discuss/Act – Gailes brought an old map of Wellington (which is now in West Dighton). We need to identify 10-15 properties in West Dighton that could have historical significance. We now have the money to pay Stacy to do a community-wide survey for this area.
5. Secretary's Report
 - Minutes of May 14, 2024
Motion to accept minutes of May 14, 2024 as submitted. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.
 - Minutes of May 30, 2024
Motion to accept minutes of May 30. 2024 as amended. Moved by Zach, seconded by Dave Marvill. All in favor.
6. Budget
 - FY 24 Balance and Expenses-

Balance same as last month - \$279.09.

Segreganset School - \$5683.34.

Donations/Grant for brochure - \$300. This money is donated by BayCoast Bank.

Expenses for conference submitted – 2 @ 125 each = \$250, mileage -96.48

Cost of the Old Town Hall marker - \$80

Remaining balance - \$152.61 We need to spend all of our budget. Gailes said it is not the nature of the commission to spend the budget all at once.

A brief discussion about the current situation of the school house: how and when can we start rehabilitating it? Gailes suggested that the Commission paid a visit to the school house.

- FY25 Budget

Results of Town Meeting - \$1400 is our budget for next year.

The Commission received a donation of \$250 from Dighton resident Heidi Brock. This money can be used for anything we want. It will be deposited in the Historical Commission account. We will send a thank you note to Heidi.

7. Unfinished Business

- Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton – Zach said that the release form is set. He asked which person should we interview first. Gailes recommended Dorothy Perry, a Boston Cane recipient, who is 102 years old. Olsen suggested Jeffrey Allie, Irene's husband. Zach suggested to first interview Cam (Camden), a teenager interested in history. Jeffrey will be second. Dave said that the studio is completed and he is excited to get this project off the ground.
- Review/Discuss/Act –Walking Tour Pamphlet of Dighton's National Register Districts – we decided to split it into two: Coram District and Wharf District. Zach showed a draft of the pamphlet and we discussed what should we put in it and how it should look like. Olsen suggested that we should do something similar for the 250th U.S. independence anniversary in 2026.

8. New Business

- Review/Discuss/Act – Informational letter for North Dighton Property Owners – This was tabled for the next meeting because some of us did not have the printed copies of the draft of the letter.
- Certificate for 100-year-old resident – Gailes received a call from Anabella Powell, director of Council on Aging, who advised her about Hilda Rezendes who lives at Lincoln Village and who is turning 100 at the end of the month, but who is not the oldest resident of Dighton. COA had a request if the town could do anything to honor Hilda. We have made certificates for Mary Rebello and Raymond Tripp – both reaching 100 years of age but are not the oldest residents of Dighton. COA is considering just a certificate. There are two options:
 - begin the practice of giving a certificate to residents who turn 100
 - Just maintain the practice and policy of the Boston Post Cane.

We all agreed that COA should do something to honor residents who have reached 100 years of age while the Commission should continue honoring the oldest Dighton resident.

9. Reports

- CPC report

The committee met on May 16th to review articles for town meeting warrant. Held the Annual Public Meeting. Next meeting is June 20.

- Library Building Committee met in the afternoon of June 11. Still waiting for the plans from MMT for HVAC and codes. The inauguration of the new library is expected to take place in April or May 2025. We will have a plaque (marker) for the building as well as a historical narrative. Zach suggested that we should start looking at preserving the Carnegie building (the old library); Gailes said that the Carnegie is still under the Board of Trustees jurisdiction because they are using it for storage of books.

- America's 250th Anniversary

Plans are progressing. Planning a reenactment for hopefully October 2026, but may be later. We will do the reading of the Declaration in July 2025 and August 2026. Planning an event to coincide with the 2026 Cow Chip Festival, probably on the Sunday of the weekend. Question came up "What is the Historical Commission going to do? Any monies, activities? Olsen suggested that since we are a rural town, we can re-enact Paul Revere's midnight ride to alert the Minutemen of the approach of the British troops. Zach suggested a re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party. Gailes said that Charlie Harris wrote a script about the May 20, 1776 Dighton Selectmen's meeting and we will see if we can get the school to re-enact it. More discussion of these ideas in the July meeting.

- Sweet Knolls/DCR Report – On May 20, Rafa, representing Dighton Historical Commission (DHC), had a virtual meeting with Simon Schreier & Amber Christoffersen from the Dept. of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and with Sally Spoon from Taunton River Watershed Alliance (TRWA). The purpose of the meeting was to set goals and objectives for the interpretive elements related to the development of a multi-use trail in Sweet Knolls Park. DHC's goals include identifying, protecting and preserving the historical heritage and resources of the Town of Dighton. DCR's goals include protecting, promoting and enhancing our common wealth of natural, cultural and recreational resources for the well-being of all. TRWA's goals include protecting and restoring the watershed's natural resources for current and future generations. The group also discussed the collective goals, such as how do they combine all these goals into one. After the meeting, Simon sent the group, via e-mail, slides based on the discussion. Rafa will forward the slides to Gailes.

- Massachusetts History Alliance Conference

Gailes and Shara attended the conference on June 3rd.

Two keynote speakers: Larry Spotted Crow Mann and Rhonda Anderson

Both spoke about the Native Americans and their voice in history. Trying to tell their history and Indigenous identity in our country. It was a very educational and eye-opening experience.

Workshop with Historic Boston on the rehab of Uphams Corner Comfort station to a successful restaurant, Comfort Kitchen. Historic Boston is a non-profit that connects historic preservation and local economic revitalization in the Boston area.

Workshop on Facilitating access to the archives with MA SHRAB. Using digitization of records for preserving and increasing accessibility. Gailes said that we should start digitizing the archives in the Town Hall vault. She received the power point presentation for a reference.

Olsen asked if the town is doing anything for the Native Americans in Dighton. Gailes will contact individuals who could be subjects for our Preserving Memories project.

10. Other

- Next Meeting Date – July 9, 2024 at 6:00 PM
- Zoning Board Meeting – June 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM – regarding the property at 2120 Water Street. We need a DHC member to attend.

11. Correspondence – None

12. No Working Meeting on June 27, 2024

13. Motion to adjourn moved by Zach; seconded by Dave Marvill. All in favor. Adjourned at 8:04 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rafa Delfin, 7/5/2024