

SUDBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, April 30th, 2018

Those Present: Barbara Bahlkow, Chris Hagger, Bill Johnson, Diana Warren, Jan Costa, Lyn MacLean
Absent: Fred Bautze Guests: Diana Cebra

The first order of business was to select a new Chair of the Commission to fill the vacancy after Lyn MacLean announced at a prior Commission Meeting that she was stepping down from that role. A motion was made and seconded to nominate Chris Hagger to be the SHC Chair. After discussion, a vote of 6-0 was taken to confirm this nomination. Chris thanked the Commission for this selection and stated that the Vice Chair position would need to be filled and this position would be a very important position and would require picking up some of the former Chair's functions as they were considerable in breadth and scope. To this end, the former Chair handed out a list of duties she performed in that role. Barbara also handed out a 2015 list of responsibilities of SHC members. Chris asked that all SHC members review this material prior to our next meeting so we could have a discussion on individual member roles. A couple of SHC members expressed potential interest in the Vice Chair role. It was agreed that time would be given for these members to evaluate their interest level and the Vice Chair role would be filled at a future SHC meeting.

Chris reviewed his concern that the SHC had a large back log of preservation related topics that would need to be covered such as: Develop Plan for the Carding Mill preservation, Update the Demolition Delay Bylaw, Assess and evaluate preservation needs of Town owned Historic Structures other than Hosmer House/Loring Parsonage, Develop and prepare a SHC preservation plan that would also include procedures if the Demolition Delay Bylaw was utilized, Develop preservation partnerships with groups/individuals in Sudbury, Update Historic Building Surveys and obtain CPC money for these efforts, Identify Sudbury buildings built before 1940 that are outside of the Sudbury Historic Districts that lack preservation protections and develop a plan for their protection, and Identify and obtain preservation grant funding. Chris indicated that the current makeup of the 7 member SHC has only 2 members with a lengthy preservation background and recommended that the Commission consider a goal to obtain more of a balance of members on the commission between those with preservation backgrounds and those commissioners with a strong focus/interest in the Hosmer House and its open houses.

Chris indicated that 3 current Commissioners (Hagger, Warren, MacLean) have terms expiring on May 31, 2018 and the Selectman's office had requested our commission's comments and recommendations concerning the reappointment of these individuals. The SHC voted 6-0 to confirm the reappointment of the 3 current Commissioners listed above. Chris will so inform the Selectman's office.

The Town Clerk's office had requested that the SHC evaluate whether our public meetings held at the Hosmer House are meeting Handicap Accessibility requirements. Chris has reached out to the Massachusetts Attorney General's office to further discuss this and is awaiting a call back. It was agreed

at the meeting that Diana Warren would also reach out to the Sudbury Commission on Disability to review this subject and will report back at the next meeting.

Jan led a discussion on the Hosmer House 2018 Holiday Open House and reviewed the pros/cons of having the Open House on 1 or 2 weekends in December and having the reception on November 30th or December 1st. It was agreed that the Holiday Open House would be on the first two weekends of December 2018 and the reception would remain on Friday evening, November 30th, and would run from 5:30pm-8:30pm. It was agreed that a future discussion is needed to evaluate options for attracting a larger attendance at the reception. Jan also reviewed the list of Open House decorators and SHC member responsibilities for the Open House. In addition, Jan reviewed the status of the Hosmer House Docent Program Development whose goal is to promote a strong and viable Hosmer House Docent organization to engage, educate and enrich the local community through Hosmer House activities and programs. The Commission expressed strong support of this program.

Barbara led a discussion of the Memorial Day Hosmer House Open House event including obtaining a list of Town employees and volunteers who have passed away in 2017 so they can be recognized at this event. She also reviewed responsibilities of SHC members for this event. Lyn will be in charge of setting up the Ballroom display in honor of the Milley family. It was agreed that the Memorial Day Open House will take place on May 28th from 11am-2pm. Fred will be in charge of publicity.

The July 4th Hosmer House Open House will take place from 11am-3pm. Barbara will be in charge of the Pie Sale, Raffle and Storeroom Sale. Fred will be in charge of publicity. Lyn will contact the Sudbury Arts Council and the Sudbury Senior Center for possible displays in the parlor and ballroom.

Barbara indicated that the Noyes School has cancelled the June 1st Hosmer House rental but the Sudbury School Department is still intending to rent Hosmer House on June 14th.

The SHC has received a demolition application on April 5th, 2018 from the Sudbury building inspector for 16 August Road. As per the demolition delay bylaw, the SHC has 30 business days from receipt of a demolition application to contact the applicant and perform a site inspection. The SHC decided to provide the applicant with 2 potential site inspection dates: Friday, May 4th at 11:30am or Saturday, May 5th at 3:30pm. Chris will communicate with the applicant to see if either of these dates would work.

The demolition delay bylaw is not specific whether a site inspection includes an interior inspection. Past SHC practice for demo delay bylaw site inspections has generally included interior inspections to observe any historical or architectural features. The SHC voted (5 approval, 1 abstention) to continue interior site inspections where possible.

It was agreed to table the discussion of SHC database questions from the SHC intern until after the SHC attended the upcoming June 4th, 2018 Mass History Conference and its digitization workshops.

The SHC voted 6-0 to approve the April 3, 2018 meeting minutes with no further revisions.

Jan presented and reviewed the Treasurer's report covering the Hosmer House Fund and the General Fund for the Month and FY ending March, 2018 (Q1-Q3 of FY 18).

Barbara presented and reviewed the Hosmer House Fundraising report.

Lyn distributed a draft letter from the SHC to the Sudbury Conservation Commission regarding its intent to remove invasive species from the Piper and Haynes Garrison sites. Wording was agreed to by the SHC regarding the SHC concern to have no disruption to the stone walls or stone outcropping in the historical area. It was agreed that both the past and current SHC Chairs would sign this letter.

Chris stated that the Sudbury Town Planner had offered to prepare 2 building inventories for the SHC over the next several months. It was agreed that 92 Butler Road would be one of the 2 inventories. Lyn has performed a car survey of additional similar properties in the Pine Lakes neighborhood and Lyn and Chris will review this and discuss at the next SHC meeting which property will be the second building inventory.

Attendance at the June 4th Mass History Conference was discussed and several SHC members are planning to attend.

Chris reviewed the importance of signing up for the May 16th Open Meeting Law Regional Training Workshop at the Sudbury Town Hall.

Diana Cebra has requested Senior Service Day support from the Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School to support Hosmer House gardens.

Chris provided an update on the Carding Mill preservation – the Town Manager is arranging a meeting between the Wayside Inn Board, the SHC and the Conservation Commission to discuss options for its preservation.

Members of the SHC proposed that the Commission schedule a future discussion on potentially developing a Policy & Procedures document on Hosmer House Safety & Security.

It was agreed that the next meeting for the SHC is: Tuesday, May 15th at 7pm.