

SUDBURY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Tuesday, October 23, 2018

Those present: Chris Hagger, Diana Warren, Bill Johnson, Fred Bautze, Lyn Maclean, Absent: Jan Costa

The first order of business was to update the SHC on a recent request by the architect for the owner of 554 Boston Post Road (BPR) to informally meet with the SHC. The SHC position was not to meet with representatives/owner of 554 BPR until and if the SHC received a demolition request for this property from the Sudbury building inspector. Diana Warren will attend as an observer representing the SHC at any future Sudbury Planning and Community Development meeting(s) on this property.

The next order of business was related to the Henry Ford designed and constructed tunnel under Rt. 20 and the MADOT intent to close off public access to this tunnel. Diana Warren will follow up on this situation and will draft a letter to the MADOT outlining the SHC concerns with restricting access and recommending that the MADOT take actions to repair the tunnel which would allow continued public access.

There was discussion regarding the Town Hall renovations and the planned SHC meeting with the Permanent Building Committee at 8am on Thursday, November 15th at Town Hall to walk through potential changes/options to Town Hall. It is the SHC understanding that no final decisions will be made as a result of this walk through.

Fred led a discussion on potential updates to the SHC website. Recommendations included: digitizing historic building surveys and place them on the website, place pictures of Town owned historic structures on the website, place information about Hosmer House (HH) Open Houses onto the website, place information on renting HH on the website and editing the text describing the SHC.

Bill led a discussion on the HH Safety and Security Plan. It was clarified that this plan was not just for HH docents but for the overall HH safety and security. Bill was encouraged to research how other House Museums (as an example – the Concord Museum) have developed similar plans and to obtain copies where possible of these plans. It was also suggested that Bill look into available information on this subject from Museum Associations.

Chris updated the SHC on the recent boarding up of windows at the Carding Mill due to vandalism concerns as well as his upcoming presentation (November 4th) to the Sudbury Historical Society on the history of Carding Mill.

Financial results from the SHC booth at the recent Wayside Inn Colonial Faire were reported. The SHC realized net donations of \$271. Fred suggested that the SHC set up booths at other similar events in surrounding communities.

It was reported that the HH Docent Education Workshop held at the HH on October 18th was well attended and Barbara Wagner did a great job in organizing it. Fred volunteered to work with Barbara Bahlkow to fix the cash register at the HH.

By a vote of 5-0, the SHC agreed to strongly oppose the proposed housing development in the historic Sudbury Town Center in order to preserve the historic nature and significance of Town Center and to support the Sudbury BOS efforts to find another alternate option.

There was a brief discussion of the upcoming Massachusetts Historical Commission workshops (Nov. 2 and Nov. 8) regarding the Benefits of Historic Preservation and Minimum Maintenance Bylaws and Ordinances which several SHC members are planning to attend.

There was discussion on whether the SHC would donate a Sudbury throw blanket and Sudbury mug to the Hope Sudbury Auction that benefits needy residents in Sudbury. The SHC has participated in this auction by donating over the last 10 years. Some members of the SHC expressed concerns whether this is a function envisioned by the bylaw that set up the SHC. The donated material was purchased through the Hosmer House Fund and not taxpayer money. The majority of the SHC decided to donate the material and the vote was 4 – 1 (abstain).

The SHC agreed to not apply for any MHC FY 19 Survey and Planning Grants.

There was a brief discussion on the SHC submittal of the Sudbury Bridges for National Register consideration. Ben Haley from the MHC had contacted the SHC Chair to ask about our intent with this submittal. The Chair had replied that the SHC has an interest in these Bridges being considered for the National Register no matter who is developing/using/constructing along the ROW where these bridges are located.

There was a brief discussion on the Treasurer's report. Lyn summarized a conversation she had with the Town DPW regarding responsibility for mowing non Hosmer House properties. The SHC has been paying in the past for mowing non Hosmer House town owned properties but it now accounts for almost half our annual budget from the Town and these funds are more needed for other SHC needs. Starting next FY, the Town DPW will assume these non-Hosmer House mowing responsibilities.

By a vote of 5-0, it was agreed that the SHC would send a letter to the Town Planner to request SHC inclusion on all future Town Planning and Community Development meetings for historic properties that have been surveyed by the SHC. Diana will draft up this letter.

By a vote of 4 - 1(abstain), the SHC September 25th, 2018 meeting minutes were approved.

Chris raised a concern over recent observations of the removal of historic beams (joists and sill) at the Loring Parsonage as part of the current construction efforts. By a vote of 5-0, it was agreed that the SHC would invite the Sudbury Permanent Building Committee to attend a meeting with the SHC on Monday evening, November 5th, 2018 to review this situation and discuss ways to alert the SHC in advance of any potential changes, destruction, and/or removal of any elements of the interior or exterior of the building structure. Chris will communicate with the PBC Co-Chair.

The SHC unanimously agreed to nominate Mark Thompson as employee of the year due to his strong continuous assistance of the SHC.

Lyn reported that the Revolutionary War Cemetery map has a new lamination cover. Lyn also mentioned that the HH Arbor will be fixed by the Town.

List of Documents and other exhibits used at meeting: SHC Treasurer's Report