



# Town of Sudbury

## Historical Commission

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### MINUTES

March 21, 2023 AT 6:30 PM

### VIRTUAL MEETING

**Commissioners Present:** Chair Chris Hagger, Vice-Chair Diana Warren, Diana Cebra, Chris Durall, Kathryn McGrath, Jan Costa, Marjorie Katz

**Others Present:** Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry, Community Preservation Coordinator Ryan Poteat

Mr. Hagger opened the Historical Commission meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken: Mr. Hagger-present, Ms. Cebra-present, Mr. Durall-present, Ms. McGrath-present, Ms. Warren-present

#### **Revolutionary War Cemetery including Kiosk**

Present: Sudbury Historical Society Vice-Chair Elin Neiterman, Sudbury Historical Society Member Beth Gray Nix, Sudbury Historical Society Member Ed Kreutz

Ms. Costa reported the group had been working on modifying the kiosk sign and map, with the addition of new names of those buried at the Revolutionary War Cemetery, and also various corrections to the names, such as spelling corrections.

Ms. Neiterman stated the mission of the Sudbury Historical Society was to collect, study, preserve and maintain historical records, artifacts and objects relating to the history of Sudbury.

The Revolutionary War Cemetery information was procured from the Town Clerk's cemetery index records, Reverend Bigelow's Burial Records, Lucy Greenlaw's Epitaph Records, Goodman Society's booklet records, "Find a Grave," Sudbury Vital Records, Ancestry.com, the Gravestone Monument Restoration Report 2009-2012 by SHC; completed by the Sudbury Historical Commission, and the diary of Reverend Parkman of Westborough, MA.

Ms. Neiterman referred to the Spreadsheet and Kiosk lists she had provided to Mr. Hagger and Ms. Costa and the HC. The Kiosk list has the names on the current Boy Scout map, and spelling and name corrections in red.

Ms. Neiterman explained the methods of how she developed the information on the Spreadsheet – using the Town index records and other sources.

Ms. Warren expressed her thanks to the SHS for their work and effort compiling the kiosk list.

Ms. Warren asked if Ms. Neiterman had conducted a site visit to determine if the name of a particular individual was still legible on the headstones. Ms. Costa commented that legibility of such inscriptions on headstones, was outside the scope of this review.

Ms. Neiterman stated she compiled the spreadsheet using the town index cards for spelling of names and inscriptions, and the location according to the cards, and lists the source documents such as Goodman's. Ms. Neiterman further explained that the Spreadsheet did not include Mr. Kreutz's list of soldiers as they would be on a separate list on the new kiosk for unknown burials. She stated that this spreadsheet was the shorter list and another list of 553 that was not sent to the HC includes all the soldier's on Mr. Kreutz's list.

Ms. Katz indicated that she believed the research was accurate and complete. Ms. Warren commented that the spreadsheet does include some of the soldiers on Mr. Kreutz's list and are asterisked on the Spreadsheet like Reuben Willis. She stated that of the 106 names on Mr. Kreutz's list about 40-42 are not on the Spreadsheet and asked what the information source is to verify they are buried in the cemetery. Ms. Neiterman responded that the spreadsheet does not include the newly discovered men on Mr. Kreutz's list.

Ms. Warren expressed her appreciation again for the work done by the SHS, but that verification that the newly discovered names were in fact buried in the cemetery has not been done and is a concern.

Mr. Kreutz stated that lineage societies publications had never been used for historic research.

Ms. Costa stated the work had been done under the best ground rules available at the time.

**Ms. Costa motioned to accept all Sudbury Historical Society research to date, as presented, for updating the kiosk.**

**Ms. Warren made a motion to amend the main motion to include a more specific reference to "the SHS kiosk list of March 2023 and Spreadsheet." No action was taken on this motion to amend.**

**Ms. Katz seconded the main motion. It was on motion 6-1; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Cebra-aye, Katz, -aye, Warren-no.**

Ms. Katz left the meeting after the vote was taken.

Mr. Hagger commented about the name for The Revolutionary War Cemetery, which was voted on at the last Historical Commission meeting. The Revolutionary War Cemetery was formerly known as The Old Burial Site.

Ms. Warren referred to the Timeline she drafted and distributed to the HC – compiled after Mr. Greene's - of the names the site has been referred to since 1717 to the present.

Ms. Warren stated that numerous references in the original 1717 Proprietor Records named the site as the "Burying Place." Ms. Warren stated that the Sudbury Bicentennial Committee meeting minutes and other town records including the HC indicate that no discussion or vote was taken to name the cemetery the Revolutionary War Cemetery – that in the 1970's there was no transparent process about a name change and there has never been an evolution in the use of the cemetery to result in a name change or an active move to name it. She noted that 90% of the burials are not Rev War soldiers. Costa confirmed that there had been multiple names through the years, and detailed that former Historical Commission Member Steve Greene, had developed a chronology of name changes, using various other sources. The MHC had

provided information previously by email that commented upon the frequent evolution of historic cemetery names.

Ms. Costa also indicated that the names “Revolutionary” and or “Revolutionary War Cemetery” were the most frequently used names for the past 70 or so years.

Resident Lyn Maclean, 209 Water Road, stated that her sister-in-law was born in 1936 in Sudbury, and recalled the cemetery was known as the Revolutionary Cemetery and Burial Ground.

**Ms. Warren motioned to amend the Sudbury Historical Commission’s motion of January 17, 2023, with regard to the name of the Town Center Cemetery, by changing the words “burial ground” to “burying place.” Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-1; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-no.**

### **196 North Road under the Sudbury Demolition Delay Bylaw**

Present: Owners Patrick Brennan and Brea Brennan, 196 North Road

Mr. Hagger provided summary of the demolition delay Bylaw proposal.

Mr. Hagger noted that the meeting tonight represented an opportunity to share related information before a scheduled hearing took place.

Ms. Brennan stated the surveyor had completed the revised plans, displaying the proposed extension addition to be added to the back of the house. She added that the original wall would not be taken down.

Mr. Hagger confirmed that the owner still needed to submit a demolition plan, in order for the Commission to approve the addition.

Ms. Warren stated that the proposed project did not trigger a partial demolition delay.

Mr. Hagger asked if the proposed addition would be attached to the original house. Mr. Brennan answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Hagger reiterated that submission of building plans was necessary, and advertising for a related demolition delay public hearing would be required.

### **328 Hudson Road under Sudbury Demolition Delay Bylaw**

Mr. Hagger provided details regarding the application, and that next steps would involve scheduling a site visit.

Ms. Warren indicated that in her opinion, the structure at 328 Hudson Road, was not historically significant in nature. Mr. Hagger noted that the existing garage was constructed pre-1940, based on the architecture and materials used. Mr. Hagger stated the garage had not been modified.

Ms. Warren offered to conduct site visits as one of her duties as Vice-Chair, in order to move forward on Demolition Delay Bylaw cases.

The site visit was scheduled for April 18 at 10:00 AM.

### **Discussion with Potential Historical Commission Candidate**

Present: Historical Commission Candidate William Andreas, 29 King Philip Road

Mr. Andreas provided summary of his qualifications and interests in historical preservation.

Ms. McGrath asked if Mr. Andreas was familiar with aspects of the Certified Local Government designation, which the Town of Sudbury held. Mr. Andreas listed the main responsibilities required by of Certified Local Governments.

Mr. Andreas suggested that the Town recognize the Smallpox Cemetery, and help the Boy Scouts maintain the Smallpox House.

Ms. Warren inquired if Mr. Andreas was supportive of extending the demolition delay for a period greater than six months. Mr. Andreas replied that an extension would work if the community needed additional time to raise funds to be able to save the structure.

**Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the nomination of William Andreas to become a full member of the Sudbury Historical Commission. Ms. Cebra seconded the motion. It was on motion 7-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye.**

### **Granite Marker – Union Avenue/Concord Road Intersection**

Mr. Durall reported that the Sudbury DPW would be moving an existing historic marker to allow reconstruction of the intersection.

Mr. Hagger stated the reconstruction project involves moving the monument from the island, and placing it on the side of the road.

Discussion among Commissioners took place regarding the movement and placement of historic marker.

A site visit was scheduled for April 17, 2023 at 10:00 PM. Mr. Hagger stated he would contact DPW and ask them to meet the Commission at the site.

### **Sudbury-Hudson Transmission Reliability Project including Retention of Portions of Bridges 127/128**

Mr. Hagger announced that Eversource indicated they would not be able to save and transport any section/s of Bridge 127.

Mr. Hagger suggested that the Historic Commission schedule a site visit at Bridge 127 with Eversource and the Sudbury Conservation Commission.

### **Invitation to Consult on Mass Central Rail Trail – Interpretive Signage Development**

Ms. McGrath confirmed there were no status updates regarding interpretive signage.

### **Railroad Section Tool House**

Mr. Hagger asked the Commissioners if the Town should try and purchase the Section Tool House.

Ms. Warren inquired if the Historic Districts Commission will monitor the construction of the Eversource Transmission Line at the Section Tool House according to the conditions of the HDC Certificate of Appropriateness. She opined that the Town might seek to obtain ownership of the building.

Ms. Costa suggested the Commission inquire about CPC funding in order to purchase the Section House.

### **Vendor Reimbursement Management**

Ms. Costa discussed the vendor payment process.

### **Hosmer House - including Open Houses**

Ms. Cebra thanked Ms. McGrath and Mr. Durall for their assistance at Hosmer House public open house events during the past year. She reported the last open house attracted some 23 people, mostly people who have not been to the Hosmer House before.

Ms. Cebra confirmed the next Hosmer House Open House was scheduled for Sunday, April 16; and will include a presentation by a Wayland Historic Society member.

Ms. Cebra discussed the need to plan for the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Hagger reported the Town Manager's office sent a letter concerning a liquor license, and a retirement party to be held at the Hosmer House. He questioned if the Commission was comfortable allowing alcoholic beverages at a scheduled retirement party. He mentioned the possibility of restricting access to certain rooms.

Ms. McGrath stated serving alcoholic at historic venues has been an issue in the past.

### **Historic Preservation Plan**

Mr. Hagger reported Kevin LaHaise submitted 6+ questions to be answered by the Commission for inclusion in his newsletter.

### **Historic Commission Finance Reports and Current Year Funding Needs**

Ms. Costa stated there was an estimated \$1,500 to \$2,300 remaining in the budget for this fiscal year.

### **Approval of January 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the January 17, 2023 Minutes of the Sudbury Historical Commission, as amended. The motion was seconded by Ms. Costa. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, McGrath-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye.**

### **Historic House Marker Program**

Mr. Hagger mentioned there were no updates regarding the Historic House Marker Program at this time.

Ms. Warren stated the Historic House Marker application should be posted on the Historical Commission page of the Town website. She stated she thought the Commission should promote the Marker Program and create a pamphlet to educate homeowners about it and to distribute in Town.

**Date for Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for April 18, 2023.

Ms. Warren suggested that a Commissioner volunteer to attend the public forum about the metal 1929 Massachusetts Tercentennial markers that will be held at the Goodnow Library on April 2, 2023.

**Recommended Archeology**

Ms. McGrath inquired about the Town's plans to dredge Cricket Pond

**Adjourn**

Mr. Hagger motioned to adjourn the Historic Commission meeting. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 6-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Cebra-aye, Warren-aye, McGrath-aye, Durall-aye.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 PM.