



Town of Sudbury

Historical Commission

historical@sudbury.ma.us

Flynn Building
278 Old Sudbury Road
Sudbury, MA 01776
978-639-3387
Fax: 978-639-3314
www.sudbury.ma.us/historicalcommission

MINUTES

April 15, 2025 AT 6:30 PM

VIRTUAL MEETING

Present: Chair Chris Hagger, Stephen Greenstein, Chris Durall, Jan Costa, Bill Andreas

Absent: Michael Wallace, Margorie Katz

Others Present: Planning & Zoning Coordinator Beth Perry

Mr. Hagger opened the Historical Commission meeting at 6:30 PM. Roll Call was taken: Mr. Hagger-present, Mr. Durall-present, Ms. Costa-present, Mr. Andreas-present, Mr. Greenstein-present.

Mr. Durall was elevated to voting status for tonight's meeting.

Eagle Scout Project

Present: Eagle Scout Theo Bowne, 16 Rice Road

Mr. Bowne stated he observed the signage at the Haynes Garrison House, and he would like to update the kiosk and place additional information on the sign. He inquired about required permitting and updating signage.

Mr. Andreas stated permission from the Design Review Board and Sudbury Historical Commission was needed, and the Combined Facilities Department would also need to be notified.

Ms. Costa suggested perhaps working on a sign for the Training Field. Mr. Bowne replied the Haynes Garrison House is more personally meaningful.

Mr. Andreas offered to be the SHC contact person for this project. Ms. Costa offered to assist Mr. Andreas.

Ms. Costa inquired about the timetable. Mr. Bowne replied that he would hope to have the site work completed by mid-summer.

Ms. Costa inquired about the condition of the kiosk. Mr. Bowne replied the main posts seemed to be structurally acceptable.

Mr. Greenstein inquired if a Commission member should check out the kiosk. Mr. Hagger replied in the affirmative.

Hosmer House including steps to Open in April

Mr. Hagger inquired whether the cleaning was completed. Mr. Andreas responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Hagger announced the Hosmer House would be open on April 27, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Maureen Hines, 49 Stock Farm Road, inquired if the general store was included, and if the general store in the Hosmer House was professionally cleaned. Mr. Andreas stated the cleaners used a bio sign on all the surfaces that were cleaned.

Mr. Hagger inquired about the number of docents available. Ms. Hines replied there are 12-18 docents.

Ms. Hines thanked the Commission for developing and implementing a program for dealing with the mold issues at the Hosmer House.

Mr. Hagger mentioned displaying the Florence Hosmer paintings at upcoming Open House, which were donated to the Town by the Vincent family. Mr. Andreas stated that the pictorial inventory needed to be completed in order to display the paintings.

Ms. Costa stated Hosmer House funds could be used to purchase small brass plaques identifying donors for placement at the base of the picture frame. This has previously been done.

Mr. Hagger stated the Sudbury Garden Club continues to maintain the Fairy Gardens at the Hosmer House.

May Town Meeting – Hosmer House related articles

Mr. Hagger stated there are three Hosmer House articles approved by the CPC for presentation at Town Meeting, and placed on the Town Meeting consent calendar. Mr. Andreas asked if the Commission should be ready to present/discuss the Historical Commission warrant articles at the upcoming Town Meeting. Mr. Hagger replied he is ready to discuss The Hosmer House Collections study.

Ms. Costa stated all three Hosmer House Applications received support from the CPC, Select Board and Finance Committee.

Ms. Costa stated it was the HVAC addition to the Envelope application, which some members of the CPC articulated may require additional vetting. There was one CPC “no” vote on the Hosmer Envelope application.

Resident Barbara Valco, 105 North Road, inquired if anything was done to address the mold situation in the basement. Mr. Andreas replied extra filtration systems had been placed in the basement, which has greatly reduced the spore count.

Railroad Section House and South Sudbury Train Station

Mr. Hagger stated the Town Manager included a place holder for acquiring the Railroad Section House and South Sudbury Train Station.

New Historical Commission Member discussion

Mr. Hagger stated that Kimberly Burns has expressed interest in becoming a member of the Historic Commission. Ms. Burns indicated that her curiosity about history was inspired by her grandmother's research into historical issues. She highlighted Mr. Cavicchio's refusal of Henry Ford's offer to buy Cavicchio land to build a car manufacturing plant.

Ms. Costa recognized that there are great opportunities to get involved with different departments in the Town, and many SHC members had no prior historical preservation experience when joining the Commission but learned on the job.

Mr. Hagger motioned that the Historical Commission recommend the appointment of Kimberly Burns as a full member to the Historical Commission, for a 3-year period. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, Greenstein-aye, Andreas-aye.

Current Historical Commission Member Terms

Mr. Hagger recommend the appointment of Marjorie Katz as an alternate Historical Commission member starting June 1, 2025 for a 3-year term. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, Greenstein-aye, Andreas-aye.

Mr. Hagger recommended the appointment of Chris Durall as a full member of the Historical Commission for a 3-year term starting June 1, 2025. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, Greenstein-aye, Andreas-aye.

Mr. Hagger recommended the appointment of Steven Greenstein as a full member of the Historical Commission for a 3-year term starting June 1, 2025. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Costa-aye, Hagger-aye, Durall-aye, Greenstein-aye, Andreas-aye.

CPC Upcoming Public Hearing

Ms. Costa explained that the upcoming CPC Public Hearing is a requirement of the State statute creating the CPA Act, and is an opportunity for the public to learn more about the CPC projects.

Mr. Hagger stated the Commission has been asked to provide possible future funding topics, including:

- Henry Ford's Carding Mill restoration
- Hosmer House Follow-up regarding Collection Study – Accession and catalog objectives
- Cemetery Restoration
- MCRT Building Restoration - Inventoried Rail Road Features
- Hosmer House Historic Landscape Restoration, if it applies
- Historical Site Restoration for Town Hall

Mr. Hagger opined about the Carding Mill, which is presently under control of the Conservation Commission.

Mr. Andreas inquired about the access road leading to the Carding Mill. He stated the building should be renovated so it can be used.

Mr. Andreas stated there are directions and pictures of Carding Mill on the Sudbury Historical Society website.

Ms. Costa stated she would add cleaning to the cemetery restoration project, i.e. "Cleaning and Restoration." She reminded the Commissioners the CPC Applications are due in early September.

Mr. Andreas stated he would add signage at Native American sites, and would also map native American sites on Town land.

Ms. Costa stated mapping and a descriptive inventory of agricultural buildings in Town would be a plausible topic for future studies. Mr. Andreas agreed.

Historical Commission Website and Hosmer House Website

Mr. Greenstein asked who was responsible for maintaining the websites. Mr. Hagger replied IT Director Mark Thompson maintains Town websites.

Mr. Greenstein inquired if he could work on his own. Mr. Andreas replied the Town Website changes have to go through the Town Officials.

Mr. Durall stated the Hosmer House Website is maintained by the Commission.

Mr. Hagger stated it is up to the Commission to decide what to place on the Town Historical Commission Website. He reported all changes must be approved by Mark Thompson.

Mr. Hagger stated the Historic Preservation Plan recommendation #42 is to have Sudbury's historic resource inventory available through the Town's GIS system and to have the historic inventory forms available and accessible online.

Ms. Costa stated all the information is available on the state MACRIS system. She opined about adding directions on how to use the MACRIS system.

Mr. Hagger stated building a data base might be added to the CPC list of projects.

Mr. Greenstein agreed to learn how to use the MACRIS system and the historic inventory forms.

CPC Update

Mr. Hagger stated there is a citizen's petition for the Town Meeting to cut back the CPC tax from 3% to 1.5%.

Ms. Costa stated FinCom voted not to support the petition; adding that the State provides matching funds and that amount would be reduced, if the CPC Tax percentage was reduced.

Mr. Hagger motioned the HC supports the continuation of the current 3% CPA surtax. The HC does not support the Citizen's Petition #54 to cut the surtax to 1.5%. Mr. Andreas seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye.

Mass Central Rail Trail Signage

Ms. Costa stated DCR convened a work group (composed of Michael Wallace, Steve Greene, Rick Conard and a Hudson representative, Amber from DCR and herself) to review the current DCR slides.

There are 4 slides of Sudbury and two Hudson slides. She addressed changes made to the changes to the slides regarding the truss bridge. She acknowledged the contributions of Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator, Francesco Bucella, Archivist of the Sudbury Historical Society, and Elle Harms head of Reference Services.

Mass Central Rail Trail - Bridge 127slide

Ms. Costa noted Bridge 127 language was modified by eliminating the sections “Why Bridges” and “Bridges are Triangles,” and replacing with text and pictures on the development of Sudbury’s mills on Hop Brook and a description of the Hop Brook watershed. This change avoided an exact duplication on both Bridges 127 and 128 slides. Related Commission discussion took place.

Mass Central Rail Trail - Bridge 128 slide

Ms. Costa noted that the Bridge 128 slide retained the pictures and information of the “Why Bridges” and “Bridges are Triangles” sections.

Mass Central Rail Trail – Bridge 130, Hudson, MA and Hudson’s Ordway Station slides

Ms. Costa stated that the Hudson Historical Commission would address the associated signage.

Mass Central Rail Trail – South Sudbury Diamond Crossing

Ms. Costa referenced the related slide. Mr. Hagger noted that the picture presented in the slide was that of the original South Sudbury Station, which was unfortunately torn down.

Mass Central Rail Trail – South Sudbury Section House

Ms. Costa mentioned that a historical picture of the Section House was not available, and that the House contained a cart which was used with repair of the tracks. She acknowledged that this section house was one of the last such buildings to be used in Massachusetts – a tribute to rail road history. Mr. Hagger mentioned that a picture of the Section House was included in a recent magazine produced by the Sudbury Historical Society. Ms. Costa offered to research this matter further and would ask Steve Greene about it.

Ms. Costa asked Commissioners to review the presented slides and let her know if there might be any major errors within the slides.

Revolutionary War Cemetery (RWC) Kiosk update

Ms. Costa noted that the project designer is completing the Kiosk slide format with the Kiosk Workgroup to hopefully be presented at the June meeting of the SHC. Based on the extensive research previously done on the RWC’s name, Ms. Costa mentioned that a change needed to be made regarding the historic name of the Revolutionary War Cemetery.

Ms. Costa motioned that the Historical Commission approve the name of the Town Center Cemetery as the “Revolutionary War Cemetery established 1716 as Burying Place,” and that these cemetery names be used on the cemetery signage and kiosk. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye.

Certified Local Government (CLG) Meeting

Mr. Hagger confirmed that a CLG meeting (joint meeting with the HC and the HDC) would take place on May 15, 2025. He presented several proposed agenda items for that meeting.

Mr. Hagger provided several modifications to the Stewardship Committee letter, as drafted.

Mr. Hagger motioned that the HC approve the Stewardship Committee Letter, as amended for distribution to the participants in the CLG Meeting prior to such meeting and to include this topic as one of the agenda items. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Costa-aye, Andreas-aye, Durall-aye.

Granite Guideposts in Sudbury

Mr. Durall provided update and stated that he reached out to the MA Historical Commission e-mail server and received a response from Lunenburg, MA who is working with the Lunenburg Historical Commission as a stone mason/restorer regarding preservation of that town's stone markers. The representative from Lunenburg suggested putting forth a proposal regarding restoration of Sudbury markers. Mr. Durall added that the restoration process would involve painting of the markers, or other suggestions.

Mr. Hagger noted that Lynn MacLean, former HC chair, indicated there are two related files in the Hosmer House. Mr. Durall offered to look for those files at the Hosmer House.

Phase V Historic Resource Inventory Survey Project status update

Ms. Costa provided an update and detailed that the consultant has completed most of the surveys. She noted that Commissioners would share in the survey review process.

Stearns Mill Pond Sign

Mr. Hagger stated Rick Conard of the Wayland Historical Commission, sent an e-mail along with a picture of Stearns Mill Pond Sign.

Mr. Andreas stated the sign was posted by the Sudbury Historical Society, depicting when the dam work was completed.

Ms. Costa reported the Town owns the sign.

Mr. Andreas stated Babe Ruth's piano was found 20 years ago in Stearns Pond.

Approval of March 18, 2025 HC Meeting Minutes

Mr. Hagger motioned to approve the HC Meeting Minutes of 3/18/25, as edited. Mr. Durall seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye.

Posting of Consultant reports

Mr. Hagger reminded Commission members to pick up their hard copy of the consultant reports.

Ms. Costa stated Historic Resource Study and Hosmer House Collection Study should be posted on the website. Mr. Durall agreed, and stated the report should be made as accessible as possible.

Mr. Andreas stated that security at the Hosmer House should be reviewed at the next meeting.

Mr. Hagger motioned the HC ask the Planning Depart to post the Hosmer House Historic Structures Report/Cultural Landscape Report and the Hosmer House Collections Study Report onto the Town website. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye.

Mr. Hagger stated the security at the Hosmer House should be discussed at the upcoming joint meeting with Sudbury Historic District Commission. Mr. Hagger noted that there would be a considerable number of people involved with the upcoming renovations, and security needed to be discussed.

Ms. Costa suggested notifying the Planning and Community Development office regarding the concerns about security at the Hosmer House. Mr. Hagger replied the Combined Facilities Director and Town Manager are responsible for all Town buildings.

Mr. Andreas offered to prepare a draft letter to the Town Manager and to the Combined Facilities Director regarding security aspects.

Historical Commission Finance Reports

Mr. Durall summarized the General Fund balance of \$7,047.32, with committed costs of \$5,407.00; leaving an end of the year balance of \$1,630.00.

Mr. Durall reported the Hosmer House Fund had a current balance of \$19,201.00.

Mr. Andreas motioned to approve up to \$600.00 to be spent on the annual maintenance of the Fairy and Herb Gardens at the Hosmer House by the Sudbury Garden Club. Ms. Costa seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye.

Date for next meeting

Mr. Hagger reported the Certified Government Meeting will be held on 5/15/25, and the next meeting of the SHC was scheduled for 5/20/25.

Motion to adjourn

Mr. Greenstein motioned to adjourn the HC meeting. Mr. Hagger seconded the motion. It was on motion 5-0; Greenstein-aye, Hagger-aye, Andreas-aye, Costa-aye, Durall-aye.

Mr. Hagger adjourned the meeting at 9:58 PM.