

Dighton Historical Commission Minutes: February 8, 2022  
1111 Somerset Avenue/Hybrid

- Called to order: 7:02 PM. Recorded and will be available on Zoom.
- **Present:** Rafael Delfin, Patricia Gailes, Jonathan Lawrence, Pamela Nickerson, Patricia Olsen, William Pruitt; Liaison/Selectman Kenneth Pacheco
  - Pledge of Allegiance

3. *Secretary's Report*

- Motion to waive reading of minutes January 11, 2022 so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.
- Motion to accept minutes, as amended, January, 11, 2022 so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor

4. *Budget*

**\*Motion to take balance and expenses out of order made by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen.**  
**All in favor.**

Balance: **\$725.50** (\$300 committed to overlay map)

Balance: \$425.50

FY23- DHC – Budget as follows:

- Equipment \$50
- Professional and Technical \$250
- Communications \$50
- Other Supplies \$600
- Travel \$50

*Capital Outlay Committee Meeting February 1, 2022 attended by Delfin & Gailes.*

- Discussion at Capital Outlay Committee Meeting on the Requests for Historic Properties updates was centered on if updates belong in the operating budget vs. lump sum projects.
- Would CPC provide an annual funding source for preservation? Suggestion as an idea by Michael Mullen, town administrator.
- Other communities fund surveys: CPC, appropriations, annual budgets, Historical Societies, gift accounts. Volunteer submitted forms must meet stringent MHC standards! MHC prefers use of consultants.
- Capital Outlay may favor budget increase request.
- Berkley, MA has 197 historical properties; Rehoboth, MA has 270.
- January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Gailes met with CPC. Request for \$25,000, to continue historic home survey taken under advisement.
- Gailes suspects Spies would re-apply for additional research needs of DHC.
- Pruitt feels CPC has strong support for historical aspects.
- Discussion held about volunteers completing survey update forms. Olsen wants training for additional 345 houses; DHC can assist, in a measured schedule. Stacy Spies will

complete 94. DHC has “tools” from MHC, Peter Stott. Spies’ sources include: find a grave, topographical maps, vital stats, deeds, DHS, town historian interviews. Information search is fluid.

- Gailes suggests “sample” submission; Olsen’s was rejected due to improper map placement. She will bring a copy March 8, 2022. Nickerson suggests DHC members combine skills and consider interns.
- Michael Mullen, Administrator, will set a meeting with CPC for what is feasible, possible for future funding.
- MARCHS website will contain historic home survey; hard copies will be available. Revisit goals. Neighborhood meetings are revealing. DHC annual report will include historic homes.
- Consensus of the Capital Outlay Committee regarding the Segreganset School request was that it was needed and to keep the Committee apprised of price changes as get closer to FY25. Pacheco wants Segreganset School in the forefront for CPC monetary requests.
- Finance Committee cut DHC FY22 budget in half.
- Robert Reardon suggests build budget based on need and defend it.
- Future funding discussion ongoing process.

#### 5. *Unfinished Business*

- Nickerson will continue plaque research for James Briggs house.
- Segreganset School house inventory meeting: Delfin, Gailes, Nickerson. Reuse/Repurpose/Recycle/Toss list to be reviewed by James Aguiar and Thomas Ferry.
- \$250 donated by Dave Derriq for Briggs garden.
- DHC requires auction regulations.

#### *Segreganset School House*

\*Cathy Potter oversees Hornbine School, Rehoboth, town-owned, run by Association.

- Groups: \$150 visit.
- Delfin’s FaceBook generates traffic. He will continue research on Segreganset School. DHC will submit mission plan.

#### 6. *Preservation Planning*

- FY21 Survey and Planning Grant Status
  - Gailes attended Phase II meeting with Stacy Spies and representatives from MHC. Sample Form B’s and Final Property List were reviewed. Phase III begins, field work: lower four corners, radiate out including: library, tavern, Briggs area and arrival of Portuguese in 1840’s.
  - Historical House Marker Program: March 31, 4pm for Karen Gannon ceremony.

#### 7. *New Business:*

- Rail Trail Information: DCR will launch design. Geographic Scope project is March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Pruitt shared 1994 study, which proved to be interesting and thoughtfully done.
- Nickerson notes: DCR will be responsible for expenses relating to “signage.”

\*Olsen shared copy of a tax bill map: 1930-1940, which delineates: railroads, trolley, population, manufacturing, post offices, schools, and Dighton Rock Park. *Olsen credits Helen Lane's book*: Fifteen carloads of strawberries were shipped from Dighton/Somerset to Boston daily, May-June, 1912; other crops proved hardier and eventually replaced strawberry plants.

\*Construction will begin on a ramp to enter “stage area” of Old Town Hall. Wrought iron gate will be emblazoned with D & 1712 in Victorian Script.

8. *No Correspondence*

9. *No public input*

10. *Other*

- Annual Report due April 4, 2022.
- Meetings: March 8; April 12; May 10; June 14; July 12; August 9; September 13, 2022

11. *Adjournment*

- Motion to adjourn by Nickerson; seconded by Delfin. All in favor.
- Adjourned: 8:35 PM

*Respectfully submitted: Pamela J. Nickerson, Clerk*

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