

Dighton Historical Commission Minutes, October 12, 2021
Hybrid Meeting – 1111 Somerset Avenue

1. Meeting called to order: **7:09PM**

Attendance: Rafael Delfin, Patricia Gailes, Pamela Nickerson, Patricia Olsen, William Pruitt, Gayle Salve, Selectman/Liaison: Kenneth Pacheco

Audience: Jonathan Lawrence; Mark Pacheco, Town Clerk; Karen Gannon

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Secretary's Reports

- Waive reading of minutes of August 31, 2021 so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.
- Waive reading of minutes of September 14, 2021 so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.
- Waive reading of minutes of September 23, 2021 so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.

- Motion to accept minutes of August 31, 2021 so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.
- Motion to accept amended minutes of September 14, 2021 so moved by Olsen; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor.
- Motion to accept minutes of September 23rd so moved by Nickerson; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.

4. Mark Pacheco, Town Clerk. *Preservation of Records*

- Mark Pacheco is “Keeper of Records,” which are used almost daily. Records date to 1600’s, are irreplaceable, in poor condition and many are held together with tape and glue. Certified copies are reliant on books 1-16 for birth, death, marriage.
- Mark Pacheco requests support from DHC; he intends to ask CPC for funding to conserve, reproduce, digitize and scan records. Mark Pacheco recommends New England Document Conservation Center, a non-profit based in Andover and includes “enhancement.” Work is on-site. Pages will be washed and cleared of mold.
- Delfin suggests a nominal charge for use of reproduction.
- Kenneth Pacheco suggests Mark Pacheco request the entire amount at once: \$94,000; three quotes will be necessary.

- Gailes notes some records are on line and search.
- Olsen used copies of assessor's records from the vault to explore family units. Olsen says the pages are one-of-a-kind, fragile and handwritten.
- A woman from North Carolina accessed records recently in a genealogy search. Proprietor's records include cryptic descriptions of land purchased from Native Americans. "The East end to the West end of this tree."
- Pruitt questions data base availability and search ability. Free hosting sites may be available.
- Delfin, Pruitt, Gailes suggest this order of importance:
 - Conserve Books
 - Digitize
 - Reproduction
- Motion to supply Mark Pacheco with a DHC "Letter of Support" to CPC to conserve/digitize proprietor's records, 1600's record books and other valuable records so moved by Olsen; seconded by Delfin. All in favor.

5. Budget

- FY22 Budget
- Price quotes:
 - a. Motion to purchase table runner from Mallard Printing, up to \$160, so moved by Olsen; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor.
 - b. Easel for BPC is being researched.
 - c. **Balance: \$975.21**
 - d. WB Mason Bill: \$28.26
 - e. Reimbursement fee for Preservation Conference: \$25 each for Gailes and Salve.
 - f. Mailing expenses: \$6.92

6. Unfinished Business

Bristol County Agricultural High School Visit – update

- Delfin is spearheading Crane exhibit. Gailes suggests another visit. Pruitt wants other homes included. Delfin will arrange another visit.
- Inventory of Crane items, at Segregansett School, will be planned.

Plaque for Briggs house – update

- Dave Derrick, former resident, provided photo from his parents' collection. A photo of the house from 1912 appeared in a calendar designed by M. Santos.

7. *Review/Discuss/Act – Volunteer application of Jonathan Lawrence*

- Lawrence is acclimating to quiet life from his move three-years-ago from Warwick.
- Lawrence is eager to learn, open-minded, enthusiastic, ambitious, wants to give back, has a sense of humor and is a member of Knights of Columbus.
- Motion to recommend Jonathan Lawrence to BOS for appointment to DHC; so moved by Olsen; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor. Kenneth Pacheco anticipates that Lawrence will be approved.
- Gailes will provide Lawrence MHC information and DHC Mission Statement.

8. Preservation Planning

1. FY21 Survey and Planning Grant Status

- Stacy Spies provided a sample letter of introduction. Gailes will write a Dighton letter of introduction and a notice to the police chief. Phase One will be complete October 29, 2021 and include: maps, statement of methodology, criteria, description of properties and assessment.
- Phase Two will be complete December 17, 2021
- Kenneth Pacheco requests his home be added.

2. Historical Marker Program

- Winslow Davis and 400 Lincoln Avenue have received their markers.

Review/Discuss/Act on Application for Historical Marker – 2150 Pleasant Street

- Built in 1840. Brightman family also were occupants.
- Current owners are Karen and Larry Gannon.
- Dighton's first Librarian lived here, and a Civil War Navy Commander. Upstairs floors are mostly original as are door latches. In the 1980's the front door was worked on. A wooden fan design was replicated. Beams replaced, shingles removed and insulation added.
- Motion to accept application for 2150 Pleasant Street (Reed/Briggs) made by Delfin; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor.
- Motion to award Historical Marker to 2150 Pleasant Street made by Delfin; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor.

Review/Discuss/Act on Application for Historical Marker – 925 Main Street

- Owned by Patricia Olsen
- (Hiram N. Bowen was a wealthy stone/brick mason)

- Built in 1891.
- This home was moved West on Main to its present site, from the library area. As a child, Olsen watched this undertaking!
- Gailes is assisting Olsen with Form B.
- Queen Anne, two stairways: front have hand-crafted baluster; back is utilitarian. Olsen modified wallpaper/paint on walls.
- Wrap-around porch, nine rooms, 2 bathrooms.
- Motion by Delfin to designate 925 Main Street as a Historical House to be named: Hiram Bowen; seconded by Nickerson; Olsen abstains. All in favor.
- Membership to Dighton Historical Society is included for one-year.
- Motion by Delfin to award a Historical Marker to 925 Main Street; seconded by Nickerson; Olsen abstains. All in favor.

Review/Discuss/Act on Application for Historical Marker – 1136 Main Street

- Owned by Gregory Olsen & Patricia Olsen
- Deed transfer in 1900 to Joe Perry Suite, Portuguese immigrant.
- Suite farmed, raised animals. Seven children lived here.
- Built in 1901.
- Patricia Olsen's parents purchased in 1951. Olsen and her brother were raised here.
- 27-acres is intact
- Farm House/ original chimneys
- Motion by Delfin to designate 1136 Main Street as a Historical House named as: Joe Perry Suite House. (This man had NINE name spelling variations!) Seconded by Nickerson; Olsen abstains. All in favor.
- Motion by Delfin for 1136 Main Street be awarded a Historical Marker; seconded by Nickerson; Olsen abstains. All in favor.

Letter for Homeowners in National Register Districts will be mailed.

3. Preservation Long Range Scope and Sequence

- Pruitt has concern for expenses for Long Range Planning and Sequence for preservation work. Pruitt wonders how many additional homes can be considered for long-term scope.
- There are positive economic reasons for preservation.
- Three steps to Historic Preservation and Planning handout from MHC
 - Identify Properties - ongoing

⊖ Evaluation
Grant applications

- Gailes emailed draft copy of CPC application of eligibility due November 30
- Motion to submit application of eligibility so moved by Olsen; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor.
- FY 22 Survey and Planning grant letter of intent due by November 15.
 - Potential is low for back-to-back grants, depending on state interest.
 - Delfin has a first draft of Survey and Planning Grant. Mount Hope area was eligible for National Register of Historic Places in 2003, but never got there, despite being an important piece of Dighton history.
 - Narrative for letter of intent needs to be completed.
 - Motion to submit letter of intent upon completion of narrative so moved by Olsen; seconded by Nickerson. All in favor.

Correspondence

Email from Michael Mullen, town administrator regarding the Capital Outlay Committee Submission Request forms for the next five years due November 18, 2021. Discussion to include Segreganset School. CPC money may be available for FY 2023.

Motion to adjourn made by Olsen; seconded by Delfin. All in favor.

Adjourned: 9:14PM

Next Meetings: November 9, December 14, 2021

Respectfully submitted

Pamela J Nickerson, Clerk
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