

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting – Old Town Hall and Zoom
Minutes of January 10, 2023

Present: Pat Gailes, Rafa Delfin, Pat Olsen, Bill Pruitt, Ron Smith, Irene Allie, Ken Pacheco (BOS Liaison)
via Zoom

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
Minutes of December 13, 2022.
 - Motion to waive the reading of the December 13, 2022 minutes and accept as amended. Moved by Olsen. Seconded by Delfin. All in favor to table the report.
4. Review/Discuss/Act - Final Street List for Community-wide Survey Update – Phase II – Stacy Spies
 - The list includes Mt. Hope and older houses on Lincoln Avenue. Mt. Hope area is already eligible for national historic registry listing. Some of the old houses have been deleted from the list because they have been altered excessively and no longer have the historic look anymore. The intent of the Survey is to update the Macris forms.
 - Motion to take the Agenda out of order as to discuss items 7, 8 and 10 first (while waiting for Stacy Spies to arrive for her presentation). Moved by Olsen, seconded by Allie. All in favor.
 - Stacy arrived at 6:13:13 PM. She it's going to be very hard to find out who actually lived in these houses because they had been rented by many people. Pruitt said his house (on Chase St.) was not included on the original list, but now it is because it's over 100 years old. For details on Stacy's presentation (which lasted over half an hour), you may view her presentation on the Town of Dighton YouTube page (Historical Commission Regular Meeting: January 10, 2023) - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4UB9mjXo8PA>
 - Motion to accept the final street listing as presented/amended. Moved by Olsen. Seconded by Allie. All in favor.
5. Review/Discuss/Act - CPC Application Review for Smith Memorial Hall/Library Renovation – Introduction by with Ron O'Connor, co-chair of the Dighton Public Library Building Committee. Also present were Town Administrator Mike Mullen and Building Inspector Jim Aguiar.
 - Slide Presentation by Holli Roche Robinson and Joseph Shea, Granite City Partners; with Jim Edwards of Holmes and Edwards. On the history of the Smith Memorial Hall and library renovation (exterior, interior). The renovation is intended to protect and maintain the building for future use of the Town, as the future home of the Dighton Town Library. It is not intended to radically change, obscure, or destroy any character defining features of the building.
 - After the presentation, Delfin asked these questions: 1) Will the librarian have her own office. Answer: she will have an area for production and for office space but it won't be marked office and the working area will also be within the general circulation of the main area. There will be a small "back in the house section" for the librarian. 2) How high will the kitchen floor be raised? Answer: 28 inches. 3) How about the space underneath the new floor? Can that be used as a storage? Answer: under the existing kitchen is a storage room from the basement that also has easily an eight-foot clear height but there will be 28-inch pulse floor.

- Smith asked if these modifications have been approved by the building inspector. Aguiar said yes.
- Pruitt asked how raising the kitchen floor would be ADA compliant. Roche said they're proposing to install a ramp in front of the children's room that will lead to a platform and then it will also be accessible by stairs
- Delfin asked how many emergency exits are there. Answer: four
- Pruitt commented that the furnace doesn't look very old as the church had installed it. Aguiar said that the building is not energy efficient which they're working on right now. The energy updates to the building still have an efficiency rating of 80.
- Jonathan Gale, ADA coordinator and CPC liaison via Zoom – commented that Aguiar and the consultants have worked very hard to make sure that the building will be accessible for people with disability. The outside ramp is in good shape and may or may not need to be moved a little bit (only because when the windows are swung open all the way they may be in the way of the ramp). Gale and librarian Jocelyn Tavares are currently working on a couple of grants – one is \$20,000 grant which would allow them to bring accessible services and resources into the library (workstations, technology including speech enabled for visually impaired people, disabled senior, veterans, and educational projects). Another grant worth "a couple of hundred thousand dollars" towards the project that would be used to purchase other types of equipment of new bookshelves, tables and chairs. Gale then spoke for CPC Chair Kevin Smith, Jr. – "we needed to have a placeholder for this event to be presented for the application itself to be presented at the next CPC meeting next Thursday 14 days in advance and as of now, we don't have anything presented so it may not be able to be on the plate".
- Mullen commented that "we don't want to assume many things so we want to check the appropriate boxes. We wanted to come before your commission first to get your feedback and we want to make sure this whole process is an authentic purposed
- Gale commented that "this is not a hard fast drop dead time for the June meeting automatically so it's more important and I hear what the town administrator is saying, to take the time and to make sure that everything is done completely by the way it has to so that everybody is on board with this project"
- Motion to identify the Smith Memorial Hall as locally significant in the history, archaeology, architecture or culture in the town of Dighton. Moved by Smith. Seconded by Allie. All in favor.
- Motion to the renovation plans and CPC funding for Smith Memorial Hall. Moved by Delfin. Seconded by Allie. All in favor.

6. Review/Discuss/Act – FY 24 Budget

- Gailes explained that this is the first time we're doing the zero-based budgeting (we start at zero and add to it). In our budget, we have equipment, repairs, maintenance, professional and technical communications, other supplies and travel
- The equipment and repairs that we have paid for is the repair of our display case at the Old Town Hall. The only thing we've ever had professional and technical would cover anything like if we were going to the GIS mapping and FY24, going to conferences/workshops. Communications is the mailings we have to do. Other supplies encompass everything else we do – office supplies for our signs have been paid for, Boston Post Cane sign, plaque, and travel
- Our budget this year is \$1,600 but that includes the \$600 for the GIS mapping for the survey project that will be completed in June for FY24. We don't have the GIS mapping that we need to take care of but we will have the sign that may come out of FY23 budget.
- Professional conference in Plymouth next year (usually costs between \$85 to \$90), Mass. Historical Alliance in Worcester is around \$160. Average of \$100 per person for each of us to go to a workshop or conference

- \$600 is earmarked for GIS mapping for FY23
- \$250 for conferences
- Motion to approve FY24 budget of \$1,400. Moved by Smith. Seconded by Olsen. All in favor.

7. Review/ Discuss – James Briggs Garden Sign

- Update on quotes. BP carpentry department has been contacted by Olsen in regards to the project. Gailes filled out the online form for carpentry request and she is still waiting for a response. Delfin reached out to Peach Signs two weeks ago but did not get any response. Gailes also reached out to Designs2Signs for a quote but got an email response saying they are away. In February plan to review any information we have.

8. Correspondence - none

9. Public Input - none

10. Other

- a. Open Commission position – 1
- b. Next Meeting Date: February 14, 2023 at 6:00PM
- c. Gailes said she got the closure letter for the reimbursement and project closeout for the FY Survey and Planning Grant Project from Massachusetts Historical Commission (amount of reimbursement \$12,500)

11. Adjourned at 7:47 PM

Submitted by Rafa Delfin, 2/26/2023