

**Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
Minutes of October 10, 2023**

Present – Pat Gailes, Rafa Delfin, Pat Olsen, Irene Allie, Zach Caron, David Marvill, Shara Costa, Peter Caron (BOS Liaison)

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order – 6:11 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
 - Minutes of August 8, 2023
 - Under item 10, it should say that the Dighton Historical Society has copies of town annual reports. Also, on the Adjournment, Zack Caron made the motion and seconded by Irene Allie. Motion to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 as amended. Zach Caron made the motion; seconded by Allie. All in favor.
 - Minutes of September 12, 2023
 - Motion to approve the minutes of September 12, 2023 as submitted. Motion made by Zach Caron; seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.
4. Budget
 - FY 24 Balance and Expenses
 - Balance is \$1212 with Mallard Printing bill paid.
 - Encumbered balance is \$260 with CAI Technologies paid.
 - Segreganset School gift account balance is \$5683.34. No expenses for this month.
5. Unfinished Business
 - Review/Discuss/ Act Historical Commission 50th – Time Capsule. Per Delfin there are no changes.
 - Gailes contacted Ron O'Connor, chair of the Library Trustees to be placed on the Trustees agenda to discuss storage of the time capsule. She is still waiting for a response from him.
 - Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton
 - Gailes discussed with TA Mike Mullen regarding storage of taped interviews. He is checking with the town's IT department. Gailes will follow up with him.
 - Zach Caron – was able to find a form where the person who agrees to be interviewed can check off clauses such as allowing them to verify the content of the interview before it is published, and asking their permission to have their names published in historical records. People will also have the option how they would want the interview to be conducted (video only, audio only, written only). Gailes stated that the interviews should be intellectual properties of DHC and that the interviewees will no longer have any copyright to the work.
 - Review/Discuss/Act America's 250th Anniversary
 - BOS approved the town committee for America's 250th Anniversary on September 27th meeting. The TA is working with the town's public relations firm on a press release.
 - Gailes is drafting a letter that will be sent to the groups/individuals included on the committee regarding participation – DHC, DHS, Town Historian, Veterans' Agent, Dighton Community Church, BOS, Minutemen re-enactors, one town department head and three-at-large community members (to be named by BOS). All members have to be sworn in by the Town Clerk. All meetings would be posted. The theme would be "Dighton's Connection to the Revolutionary Era". Zach shared the website for Mass. Revolution 250 which features a PDF brochure that the state of Ohio put together to advertise the 250th anniversary and to provide options to the community to get involved in the celebration.

- Review/Discuss – James Briggs Garden Sign –
 - Gailes said that Tom Ferry and members of the Highway Dept have installed the James Briggs sign at the edge of the parking lot.

- Review/Discuss – Helen Lane Map
 - Gailes said that the map will be hung in old town hall. The building inspector Jim Aguiar has the map and is consulting with the BOS as far as choosing the right spot in the old town hall where to hang it.

6. Preservation Planning

- Review/Discuss/Act – Area forms for Brick Area and South Dighton
 - Gailes asked if we want to submit these to MHC for consideration for eligibility for National Register District? The criteria are historic significance and age and integrity. The property should at least be 50 years old and it should still look much the way it did in the past. We also have to consider the Secretary of Interior Standards. Both these forms have eligibility that Stacy Spies filled out and she thought it was worthy of consideration. We have to decide if we want to send it along to Ben Haley at the MHC and see what he says or not. Zach said that South Dighton probably has the best chance of being accepted just by looking at the number of properties and how they look. Delfin said that we should keep trying until we succeed in getting listed in the national register.
- Review/Discuss/Act – Carnegie Building -National Register
 - Possibly eligible for the National Register as an individual building
 - Gailes said that she reached out to the library board of trustees to discuss. We will also have to discuss with the building inspector and BOS since it is a town-owned building.
 - We will need photos of primary interiors, representative secondary interiors, and notes of any modifications over the years. Gailes said that the main floor has never really changed since it was built. Changes were made in the lower level where they put the children's room and the teen room, but the structure remains the same. Nothing was done in the attic and the layout of the building is exactly the same.
 - Zach commented that the architecture itself should hold some weight in terms of making the building eligible for national register. Marvill asked if the interior is presentable enough for picture-taking; we have to ask Jim Aguiar to find out.
- Discuss/Review/Act - Walking Tour of Dighton's National Register Districts
 - Pamphlet for the walk

Gailes suggested that we hold the walk in the spring. We should have a pamphlet to describe the walk. Gailes showed a pamphlet of walking tour in Wickford, Rhode Island as an example. The pamphlet has old and new photos of the town and map with stops. Gailes spoke with Leanne from Town Hall who said that the public relations agency that Dighton uses can organize the Dighton walking tour if we give them the information and pictures (that Zach will provide).
- Discuss/Review - Community-wide Survey Update – Phase 2
 - Stacy is working on the final report and documents, including a NRHP eligibility statement (National Register of Historic Places) for the Mount Hope area. She will also finalize with CAI on the GIS mapping and she will send one invoice for the project.
- Review/Discuss/Act- Historical Marker Program
 - Marker for Old Town Hall – Delfin verified all the historical information on the OTH and everything looks fine. He requested a motion to approve the application by the Town of Dighton for a historical marker for the OTH which back in the day was called Dighton Town House. Zach made the motion;

seconded by Olsen. All in favor. Delfin said he contacted Signarama, the sign marker, but they are very slow in responding. Olsen suggested to visit the Somerset Historical Society and speak with John (who is also a member of Somerset Historical Commission) to inquire about Somerset's historical marker program (cost, supplier).

- Gailes has contacted Ron O'Connor of the Library Board of Trustees to discuss Markers for the Smith Hall and Carnegie Building.
- Review/Discuss - Exterior Lighting Fixtures for Smith Memorial Hall
 - Gailes said that at the library building committee meeting on September 28, the building inspector ask for our input on exterior lighting for Smith Memorial Hall. He will get some samples for us to consider. If we are interested in giving our input, Gailes said that we can do a Google search for exterior lighting and shingle-style buildings.

7. New Business

- Review/Discuss/Act – Volunteer Application of Shara Costa. Shara introduced herself and stated how she got interested in history. She said it would be an honor for her to be part of the historical commission. Shara is the new town clerk and she is the custodian of the official Town records.
- Gailes entertained a motion to recommend to the BOS that Shara Costa be appointed to the Historical Commission. Moved by Zach; seconded by Marvill. All in favor. We now have a full board of 7 members and 1 BOS liaison.

8. Public Input

9. Other

- Open Commission position – 1
- Delfin passed around a certificate for Kevin Clifford of Bristol Plymouth Regional Technical High School for making and sponsoring the James Briggs Garden sign. Delfin said that he will send the certificate to Clifford via regular mail.
- Next Meeting Date – November 14, 2023 6:00 PM
December 12 6:00 PM will be our December meeting
 - Next CPC meeting is October 19, 2023 at 5:30 PM
No new applications for funding. CPC is currently looking for a Housing Representative

10. Correspondence

Gailes received an e-mail from Ben Haley of MHC regarding Four Corners. Basically, according to Haley, "in order to be eligible for the national registry, something must retain integrity and be significant by meeting at least one of the national register criteria it cannot be one or the other." To make a small area of the Four Corners evaluated, we need to provide a map of the proposed area and any recent relevant inventory forms, etc.

11. Adjournment at 7:22 PM