

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
July 11, 2023 - 6:00 PM

Present: Patricia Gailes, Patricia Olsen, Rafa Delfin, Irene Allie, Zach Caron, Peter Caron (BOS Liaison)

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order - 6:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
 - Minutes of June 13, 2023
 - Motion to approve the minutes of June 13, 2023 as amended. Moved by Allie and seconded by Olsen. We will vote on amended minutes in August.
4. Budget
 - FY 23 Budget balance/expenses
We encumbered \$500 for CAI Technologies. We have invoices for the following: \$410.18 for Riverside Art, \$103.52 for WB Mason, \$63 for stamps. Balance left for FY23 is \$211.21
 - FY24 Budget balance - \$1400. We had planned for \$50 for the display cases and different items that we are accumulating; \$700 in professional development (professional and technical); \$30 for communications; \$490 for under other supplies (office, three historical markers for town buildings); \$130 for travel. So far, we haven't incurred any bills.
5. Unfinished Business
 - Discuss/Review James Briggs Garden sign
We are waiting for the highway department to put the sign in place. We will reach out to Jenna and Tonia again about the dedication. Delfin said that it has been three months since we haven't heard from either woman.
 - Review/Discuss/ Act Historical Commission 50th – Time Capsule
We presented with the BOS possible spots where to place the time capsule: Town Hall, Segreganset School, Carnegie Building, and Smith Memorial Hall (thought we have concerns with flood plain on Main Street where the hall is located). Delfin said he did some research on the prices of time capsules; they range somewhere from \$36 to \$2,000 depending on the size and the make. Olsen suggested a plexiglass box at Smith Hall to keep the time capsule. The plexiglass box will contain a sign that says when the time capsule will be open; it wouldn't be vandalized because the staff will be watching it. Delfin is concerned that it might be destroyed during a fire. Zach Caron says that putting it in a vault has no charm compared to having it buried. Olsen

suggested that we consult with Tom Ferry for the prices of plexiglass case and how many items we can put in it. Olsen said that it should not be expensive. Delfin suggested if we could find a donor to pay for the case. Where should it be buried? Delfin asked about the thickness of the walls at Smith Hall (perhaps it can be buried within the walls). Peter Caron said that the basement is not an option. Gailes said that the plexiglass case is doable. Gailes suggested to put the capsule in the Carnegie building, but Peter Caron said that it's not an option because the building could be torn apart and the capsule could get lost during reconstruction; he also seconded Olsen's suggestion to put it on display at Smith Hall. Delfin suggested the Dighton Community Church; Allie stated that the church could someday be sold or changed. Delfin suggested the church cemetery and bury the capsule next to someone famous. Gailes said that we should explore the option of putting it in Smith Hall. Delfin asked when should we "bury" the time capsule? (Firecracker Festival on Sept. 9? Christmas Festival?) Gailes said that during the Firecracker Festival, we can have a box and advertise it on our Facebook page to bring your item to the festival, but that we have the right to reserve what goes in. Delfin said whatever item that we reject, we can always save it for our project on preserving memories of Dighton. We will talk about the plexiglass issue again on our next meeting.

- Discuss/Review/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton to be conducted by Pat Olsen and Irene Allie. Olsen composed several questions about growing up in Dighton related to school topics and World War II. Where did you attend grammar school? How did you get there? Did you bring lunch or go home to eat? How did World War II affect your family? Rationing? Blackout drills? Was there a celebration when the war was over? Did your family take vacations? What did you do for recreation? What was your first job? The rate of pay? Did any extreme weather affect your family? Do you remember your family getting electricity or indoor plumbing or your first television? Did you see the Beatles appearing on Ed Sullivan Show? Zach suggested more specific questions like: What businesses do you remember going to Dighton? Who was the first selectman you remember? Irene said that her husband will be 82 the following week and Olsen suggested to interview him. Peter Caron suggested to interview Richmond Tripp who is 100 years old (he is the oldest living World War II veteran who is a Dighton resident). The goal is to interview 25-30 people and we need them to sign a release form for recording. Zach to explore recording and releases. We could publish the interviews via Amazon. All the materials will be intellectual properties of the Commission. Irene will start interviewing her husband, Jeff Allie. She suggested to ask permission from the interviewees if they wish to be recorded and photographed. Other individuals considered for the interview are town historian Myrna Santos and Dorothy Perry (the oldest living Dighton resident) and possibly Mr. Eagleson. Gailes also suggested to interview people in their 60s as their parents might have told them things about Dighton history. We will interview a total of 10 persons to

start. Delfin asked if we should publicize the interviews on our Facebook page; Gailes said to wait until we have all the details ready, then we can ask for volunteers to be interviewed.

- Discuss/Review/ Helen Lane map

Gailes said that it has been framed and ready to display. She took a picture of the framed map and showed it to us. Taken under advisement by BOS. Olsen suggested that we put the framed map temporarily in the cabinet in the Old Town Hall.

6. Preservation Planning

- Discuss/Review/Act - Area Form

- Lower Four Corners - National Register of Historic Places

Gailes said that MHC has accepted the Lower Four Corners Area form for review for eligibility for the National Register.

- Discuss/Review/Act – Letter to property owners in Lower Four Corners Area

Gailes started the First Draft of letter to property owners. Olsen suggested that the letter include two sentences: First, saying that the historical designation in no way encumbers the home owner as far as any painting or renovations they choose to make. She suggested to underline this sentence. Second, this designation would enable businesses located in this area to be eligible for grant money. Gailes brought up the question, "How are going to word that to say this for now but it doesn't mean that in the future it wouldn't?" Olsen commented that if read the letter, she would be unhappy because it leaves questions and that people will use social media to criticize the letter. She suggested to put the homeowners' mind at ease by writing one sentence about the grant money and talk about it at the meeting with the homeowners. Gailes is considering sending information to homeowners about the national register district and how it compares to local historic district, and copies of the Lower Four Corners Area form. Olsen asked how much it would cost to send a packet (the form consists of 22 pages if we include the pictures; 11 pages without the pictures). Zach Caron commented that the technical terms in the letter could turn off some people. Allie suggested to include an informational flyer, and if a homeowner has any more questions, he or she can ask them during the meeting. Delfin said that the third paragraph of the draft is too long and should be reworded to make it more simple and clearer. Gailes will continue to work on the letter and on our next meeting in August, we will decide on a date and time for the meeting with the homeowners.

Walking Tour of our National Districts – Gailes proposed that we hold this event in September. She will talk to the gentleman from the Taunton Yacht Club if he would be interested in the Coram Shipyards.

Zach Caron said that it's a good idea to advertise the Old Colony Walking Tour. The tour should last between 45 minutes to one hour at the most. We could do the event either on September 23 or 30.

- Discuss/Review Community-wide Survey Update – Phase 2
Gailes said that our Contract with CAI technologies has been signed and we're just waiting for information from Stacy. This Agreement is for services on a time and materials cost basis with invoicing once a month. Contract is good for future projects. Once Stacy sends the data, they will begin inputting. Stacy has completed research at the Society. Waiting for forms from Stacy for the commission to review and comment. Gailes will follow up with Stacy.
- Historical Markers
 - Discuss/ Review pending Markers – Delfin said that he mailed the new application form (that includes an option whether or not to publicize their houses) to the residents of 150 and 158 Chase Street, but he hasn't received any response from them yet. Gailes will check the Historical Commission mailbox at Town Hall to see if the application forms have been delivered. Delfin said the price for the marker is \$126.42.
 - Markers for Historical Town Buildings
Our budget allows us to apply for 3 historical markers – all the same size as the residential marker. We need to fill out marker applications for each one (Old Town Hall, Segreganset School House, Carnegie Building). Update applications with new price. \$126.42

7. New Business

- Review/Discuss/Act Richmond Tripp 100th Birthday – Certificate
Gailes was contacted by Leeanne Kerwin in the BOS office who said that Richmond Tripp just turned 100 and is being honored at the BOS meeting July 12 at 6:30 PM. Gailes made a certificate to sign from the commission. Gailes can't make it to the meeting; Delfin volunteered to present the certificate to Tripp. Motion to award Richmond Tripp a certificate from the Historical Commission on July 12. Moved by Pat Olsen. Seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor. Each member signed the certificate; David Marvill was not present so Delfin printed Marvill's name instead.
- Review/Discuss/Act – America's 250th anniversary is coming up in 2026. Gailes sent two links related to the American Revolution that have listings of things that are already happening, encouraging people to honor their revolutionary history. No battles occurred in Dighton, but the town is rich in revolutionary history. Gailes suggested that we approach the BOS to form a committee, to plan with 250th anniversary in Dighton and that on the committee be representatives from our commission, the Historical Society, the BOS, the community church, the veterans' agent, the Minutemen re-enactors, and highway supervisor Tom Ferry. We can ask Patrick Menges to read the Declaration of Independence. Delfin suggested a reenactment of the Molasses War like it was done during the Bicentennial celebrations in 1976. Zach Caron

asked what areas in Dighton are most similar to how they looked in 1776: The Community Church and its cemetery come to mind because it contains graves of individuals who lived during the Revolution. Olsen shared her experience when she was part of the Dighton Tricentennial Committee.

- Review/Discuss/Act – Firecracker Festival
To be held on Saturday, September 9 noon-5pm setup 10am. We will need a pop-up tent.

We have: DHC banner

Table cloth

130 pens

236 boxes of crayons

100-120 coloring pages

Save the Segreganset Schoolhouse flyers

We will need a pop-up and bring your own chairs. Delfin will bring his house historical marker to show it to people who may be interested in getting one. Gailes ordered 200 wrist bands with Dighton inscribed on them (at 94 cents each). Gailes will get a price quote from Mallard Printing services for the silicone bracelets. Delfin asked if we should do the Save the Segreganset Schoolhouse again this year.

8. Public Input – None

9. Reorganization of the Historical Commission

- Nominations for chair, vice chair, clerk. Motion to table by Delfin because Marvill is not present. Seconded by Irene. All in favor.

10. Other

- Open Commission position – 1 – Zach Caron has not yet been appointed because he hasn't been sworn in yet. He will be sworn in the following Thursday
- Historic New England Summit 2023 – November 2-3, 2023 in Providence – Vets Auditorium – a panel discussion. \$100 early bird. Online is not free.
- Oct19-21 MA Historic Preservation Conference
Planning is now underway for the 2023 Massachusetts Historic Preservation Conference. The event will be hybrid - consisting of virtual sessions held over two days followed by a day of in-person opportunities across Massachusetts. Details will be available soon. If any of us is interested, the commission would have to approve this expenditure.
- Next Meeting Date - August 8, 2023 6:00 PM

11. Adjournment - Motion by Olsen to adjourn, seconded by Irene. All in favor. Adjourned at 7:20 PM