

**Dighton Historical Commission**  
**1111 Somerset Ave**  
**Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom**  
**February 20, 2024 - 6:00 PM**

**Present: Pat Gailles, Rafa Delfin, Shara Costa, Pat Olsen, Dave Marvill, Irene Allie, Zach Caron**

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:06 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Secretary's Report
  - Minutes of January 9, 2024  
Motion to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024 as amended/submitted. Moved by Olsen.  
Seconded by Marvill. All in favor.
  - Minutes of January 25, 2024.
  - Motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2024 as amended/submitted. Moved by Caron.  
Seconded by Delfin. All in favor.
4. Budget
  - FY 24 Balance and Expenses
    - Invoices – After the bill for the CAI map was submitted, Gailles received an email with corrections on how the bill had to be paid from the town accountant. \$383.75 invoice was received the end of January. This is for the labor to create the hard copy map. The invoice payment has to come out of professional and technical. Not encumbered funds. Invoice was dated for services in FY24 (7/011/23-6/30/24) not FY23. Gailles thought it could come out of encumbrance since part of the same project, but the dates of the contract match the fiscal year – FY24.
    - Balance will be \$574.09
  - FY25 Budget - has been submitted. Sent TA and accountant our technology related issue with the storage and preservation of audio, video and text files. Gailles said we may not have to meet with the TA since we are not asking for any increases on the FY25 budget.
5. Unfinished Business
  - Review/Discuss/Act – Time Capsule. Zach mentioned the irregular hours of Somerset Historical Society; he went there two weeks in a row but no one was there. Gailles presented Rafa a copy of a Taunton Daily Gazette article featuring Dighton teacher Leigh Beson who was awarded as one of the recipients of the Milken Educator Award. Rafa asked if we could get the original newspaper; Gailles said the Historical Society has the original but she will reverse it by giving the copy the Society and the original to the Commission. Rafa said that besides paper documents, he suggested USB drives containing videos of the oral interviews of Dighton residents or regular people doing things; 50 years from now, future Dightonians will want to see the things that happened in Dighton before their generation. Zach said that we may have to get something from Amazon.com to transfer USB drives to because these drives may expire many years from now; whereas hard copies can last a long time. Rafa also suggested burying old iPhones and analog phones. Dave asked how far are we going back from the date on the time capsule; Rafa said 2023-2024. We don't have to limit the time capsule to paper documents, but old gadgets and electronic devices may be stored in a museum. Rafa is concerned that if the time capsule is covered with Plexiglass, some people may be tempted to pry open the capsule and steal stuff. Gailles mentioned the old drawers in the Segreganset

- School House that could be repurposed as a capsule; Olsen suggested the shelves from the Bowen House. Rafa asked if we could advertise on the Commission's Facebook page to solicit donations for the capsule; Gales suggested that we wait until we have a place where we're going to be and donors can bring their donations to us. Shara said that after the primary elections, she and Gales will organize the historical section in the town vault.
- Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton Zach met with the TA Mike Mullen today and showed him the rough draft of the release form, Mike told Zach to edit it and bring it back to him before BOS can vote for it. He doesn't think the form would require legal attention. Gales said that we cannot discuss on e-mail, even if there's a quorum, because it violates Open Meeting Law. Mike told Zach that he approves the idea of us creating a Google drive account to store our materials. Dave passed out a sheet with images of external hard drives that we can use as an alternate storage. Motion by Marvill to allow Zach to create a Google Drive for the Dighton MA Historical Commission; seconded by Olsen. All in favor.
  - Review/Discuss - America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – First meeting is Monday, March 4, 2024 at 6:30 PM at Old Town Hall. Tom Ferry has agreed to join the committee. He will be appointed by the BOS
  - Review/Discuss/Act –Walking Tour Pamphlet of Dighton's National Register Districts - Zach is putting this into Microsoft Publisher; he can also upload it to Google Drive. We needed to find old photos/postcards of Taunton Yacht Club; Zach searched but could not find any. Zach asked if we could use a drone to take photos; Rafa said we need permission from property owners if we could take photos of their properties using a drone. Gales will reach out to Bob Bedard to see if he has photos of the Coram shipyard.
6. Preservation Planning
- Review/Discuss/Act – Working Committee for Survey forms and recommendations  
Review and general discussion of final survey reports was held. We discussed having Stacy Spies come to a future meeting to review the recommendations made in her reports and the recommendations from MHC. Discussion on what is considered locally significant, as defined by the Demolition Delay By-Law and CPC guideline. We always should be using the same criteria. Zach asked what town isn't historic. History is relative. What we consider historically significant in Dighton may not be the same in Berkley or other towns. The working committee is recommending to vote the Mt. Hope Finishing Company and the Mt. Hope Village as presented in the Mt. Hope Finishing Company area form as locally significant. Mt. Hope has huge material. Motion to send the Mt. Hope area form to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for consideration for the National Register of Historic Places recommendation. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene Allie. All in favor.
  - Review/Discuss/Act – Continuation of Community-Wide Survey  
Gales asked if we want to continue with survey forms? West Dighton has not been done at least 23 properties to update. Stacy's contract is for 20 or less. We would have to apply to the CPC for funding. 20 properties cost \$7000. 10 properties \$3500. The historical funds are still waiting for the monies to be returned to account. We had planned FY 25 capital outlay of \$45, 000 to be requested from CPC for the Segreganset School House. Shara suggested that we should focus on what we already have – Brick Church, South Dighton and Mt. Hope. Pat Olsen suggested that we should also include Wellington. Gales will send an application to CPC to fund survey forms for 10 properties.
  - Review/Discuss/Act - Historical Marker Program – Zach said he showed the Old Town Hall marker to his father Peter who didn't like the quality. Peter said that he would take the marker

to Paul Pacheco to make it look better. We decided not to use the vendor again (Signarama Raynham). Rafa will contact Paul Pacheco to see if he's willing to be the new vendor.

- Review/Discuss/Act – Segreganset Schoolhouse - FY 25 Capital outlay request of \$45,000 for architectural designs for the schoolhouse. Issues with the school house such as lead problem, not ADA compliant, parking, plaster, etc. Gailes said we need to check with the Secretary of the Interior's codes on building rehabilitation. As fundraising ideas, Rafa suggested to reach out to the richest person in Dighton to finance the rehab, or sell bricks with the names of donors inscribed on them.
- Gailes emailed the Town Administrator and accountant with request to discuss the schoolhouse.

7. Public Input - None

8. Other

- CPC report – no February meeting. Will meet in March.
- Library Building Committee – Met on February 12. Reviewed proposed interior layout of library as approved by the Library Trustees. Includes a circulation area, main hall, children's area, teen area, program room and reading room. Some of this may change. MMT architects will complete a walkthrough and review interior layout. Gailes showed the group an illustration of the preliminary interior layout. Next meeting is Monday, February 26 at 3:00 PM.
- Next Meeting Date – March 12, 2024 6:00 PM

9. Correspondence - None

10. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn. Moved by Zach, seconded by Irene. All in favor.

*Respectfully submitted by Rafa Delfin, 3/21/2024*