

Dighton Historical Commission
1111 Somerset Ave
Hybrid Meeting- Old Town Hall and Zoom
May 14, 2024 - 6:00 PM

Present: Pat Gailes, Pat Olsen, Shara Costa, Dave Marvill, Rafa Delfin (via Zoom). Guest: Paul Pacheco

Meeting Agenda

1. Call Meeting to Order at 6:00 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Motion to take the Historical Marker Program (#7) out of order. Moved by Pat Olsen, seconded by Shara Costa. All in favor. The Board decided to commission Paul Pacheco to create new house marker signs, with Rafa's preferred color to be used. Rafa and Paul were tasked to determine the exact color match. Additionally, the Board approved \$80 to be paid to Paul for the creation of a new marker for the Old Town Hall, with an agreement that this would be completed before July 1st. The Board also planned to contact other homeowners about similar projects. Pat Gailes explained to Paul that anyone who wants a marker would apply to us, and after doing all the research, the Board would hook up the homeowner with Paul to arrange the order, payment and delivery of the marker.
4. Secretary's Report
 - Minutes of April 9, 2024
 - Motion to accept the minutes of April 9, 2024 as amended. Moved by Pat Olsen, seconded by Shara Costa. All in favor.
 - Minutes of April 25, 2024
 - Motion to accept the minutes of April 25, 2024 as submitted. Moved by Delfin, seconded by Gailes. All in favor.
5. Budget
 - FY 24 Balance and Expenses
 - No expenditures this month. The balance is \$579.09. Encumbered balance is \$260
 - FY25 Budget
 - FY25 budget from BOS meeting on May 8 indicates a cut in our budget of \$250 in the Professional and Technical line item for a total budget of \$1150. The BOS will meet on May 15 to further discuss the town budget, and the \$1150 will be on the warrant for the next town meeting on June 10. Marvill suggested that we should ask for \$1400 and fight for it.
6. Unfinished Business
 - Review/Discuss/ Act - Preserving Memories of Dighton
 - Release form has final edit from Town Administrator Mike Mullen. Motion to approve amended release form for the preserving memories program. Moved by Pat Olsen, seconded by Shara Costa. All in favor.
 - Review/Discuss/Act –Walking Tour Pamphlet of Dighton's National Register Districts - The Board discussed the editing of a walking pamphlet, with Zach expected to contribute, but was absent due to illness. Dave Marvill contacted Ron O'Connor who said that he has some Dighton photos (postcard size) that he would like to donate to the time capsule. Dave also gave an update about the Cable studio which is almost finished and soon we should be able to interview volunteers for the preserving memories program. The Board also deliberated on

creating two separate pamphlets, one for the shipyard and one for the wharf, with sufficient funding for the task. The possibility of printing the pamphlets with a special needs group was also brought up for consideration in October. Since Zack is not present, this discussion has been tabled for now. Shara shared news of a donation of \$350 from Bay Coast Bank, prompting the board to consider adding a thank you note on the back of the pamphlet. It was decided to write a letter of gratitude. Town Treasurer Paul Reynolds helped to get the grant.

- Preservation Planning
- Review/Discuss/Act – Working Committee for Survey forms and recommendations
The committee met on April 25 and developed questions to ask Stacy Spies, preservation consultant regarding the recommendations of MHC. The Board invited Stacy to tonight's regular meeting, but she had a conflict. She will attend via Zoom on our June 11 meeting. As we know the Mt. Hope Finishing Company Village was identified as being eligible for National Register Historic Places listing. However, efforts have to be made to identify those houses that may have been moved. We worked on questions regarding the Brick Area and what needs to be done for the South Dighton Area form. Next meeting is May 30 at 6:00 PM at the Dighton Police Station Conference Room. Pat Olsen asked if Stacy is aware of West Dighton; Gailes said that Stacy is aware and the request to fund the West Dighton survey forms will be on the Warrant of the next town meeting.

- Review/Discuss/Act- Historical Marker Program – (see #3)

7. New Business
8. Review/Discuss/Act – Informational letter for North Dighton Property Owners – Rafa said that he had forgotten to bring the copy of the informational letter that he had drafted (he's vacationing in Martha's Vineyard). Motion to table the letter until the next meeting. Moved by Pat Gailes, seconded by Dave Marvill. All in favor.
9. Reports
 - CPC report – CPC will be meeting on Thursday, May 16 at 5:30. Then at 6 PM will be holding its Annual Public Meeting with committee introductions and a CPC overview of how CPA funds are collected / used, learn about past CPA projects, and share your thoughts on how you would like to see CPA funds used for future projects.
 - Library Building Committee
The committee met on May 6. There was a joint meeting with the library trustees. Library director has begun ordering furniture and fixtures from the \$87,000 earmark from the state. Donation of shelving from the New Bedford Whaling Museum. Architectural drawings are being prepared in order to go out for bid. Monies will be tight. Next meeting is May 30 at 4 PM. Pat Olsen raised the idea of wrought iron being added to the design of the Smith Memorial Hall. Gailes suggested to take pictures of wrought irons that we like and we can discuss them with the committee next time.
 - America's 250th Anniversary Committee
The committee met last night and discussed possible activities/programs for 2025 and/or 2026. Would like to host a reenactment of a Revolutionary battle or an encampment. Discussion on involving the schools. Robin LaCroix is working with Myrna Santos on identifying the Revolutionary Soldiers from Dighton – using the Lives and Fortens book from 1976. Highlight votes from town meetings in 1774-1775. Extensive discussion regarding budget and fundraising. Gailes will speak at the Memorial Day program to share the information about the semi-quicentennial of the U.S. and to honor Revolutionary ancestors.

10. Other

- Next Meeting Date – June 11, 2024 at 6:00 PM
- Massachusetts History Alliance Conference – June 3, 2024
It costs \$125 per person plus mileage. Shara said she is very interested in attending. Gailes said that she and Zach are also be interested. Motion to approve sending two people to the conference at \$125 per person plus mileage. Moved by Pat Olsen, seconded by Dave Marvill. All in favor. Gailes will offer the invitation to Zach first, then to Shara.
- MA Historic Preservation Conference – September 27, 2024
Hanover Theater, Worcester, MA – more information to follow. This is the biennial conference. They are currently looking for speakers.
- James Briggs Garden –
Kevin Smith and Nicole Mello have taken over the garden. Gailes has spoken to Kevin about a dedication and we will work on that as the garden grows!
- Pat Olsen asked if there will be a Firecracker Festival this year. Gailes said she hasn't heard anything. Shara said she will ask Kevin (he organized the last three festivals). Rafa said that Kevin had told him that people would volunteer to help with the festival but at the end of the day they never showed up.

11. Correspondence

- Email from Jonathan Gale – ADA Coordinator
Gailes did email Jonathan with questions regarding official wording for the agenda, who will be paying for needed services, timeline for implementation.

12. Motion to adjourn. Moved by Pat Olsen, seconded by Shara. All in favor. Adjourned at 6:43 PM

Respectfully submitted by Rafa Delfin, June 9, 2024