

Meeting Minutes
of the
Sharon Historical Commission and Historic District Commission

January 17, 2024

This meeting was held via Zoom in accordance with the Governor's emergency declaration relative to public meetings.

In attendance: James Grasfield (Chair), David Martin (Vice Chair), Shirley Schofield, and Donald Williams (voting)

Guests attending: None

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

1. Approval of the Minutes for the 12/27/23 meeting

- The Chair asked if there were any amendments or corrections to the minutes.
 - There were none.
- *Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The SHC voted 3 – 0 (Grasfield, Martin, Williams) to approve the motion.*

2. Review of the revised plans for a proposed new home at 208 South Main Street

- The new renderings for the project were reviewed along with comments and suggestions from the Chair and the SHC's Special Consultant.
- The SHC members agreed with the recommendations presented.
- The Chair plans to meet with the homeowner and the architect to discuss the revisions on January 22, 2024.

3. Updates on the road construction near the West Cemetery

- Mr. Martin and the Chair met with the project manager for the Sharon Commons and with their attorney Bob Shelmerdine.
- They proposed a plan to install a higher (18" – 24") granite curb along the road to act as a barrier and a retaining wall for the cemetery wall along part of South Main Street (this curbing will be 10" thick).
- They will grade the land between the stone wall and the curbing and plant grass to keep the dirt from eroding.
- Mr. Martin and the Chair agreed that this would be a good compromise to fortify the cemetery and not detract from the historic look of the existing dry laid stone wall.
- The developer will submit a new plan to the MA DOT for approval and keep the SHC informed of the progress.

- The construction manager and Mr. Shelmerdine claimed that the vent pipe in front of the cemetery is the Town's responsibility and is necessary to vent the nearby manhole. Options for relocating it or disguising it were discussed. The SHC will contact Pater O'Cain to discuss options.

4. Review of the Cemetery Preservation Project

- The CPP working group is meeting on January 18, 2024 at 1:00 PM to continue the work on the histories for each cemetery.
- The CPP working group will distill the histories into signs for each cemetery.
- The full histories will be used in their entirety on the website and can be added to and amended as new information becomes available.

5. Discussion for the Preservation Award

- The SHC discussed candidates for the Preservation Award and unanimously agreed that the White House at Camp Wonderland was deserving of the 2023 award.
- The Chair proposed creating a second award to recognize a significant restoration or renovation when a deserving project was concluded.
 - Mr. Martin liked the idea and suggested that the award be called the "Restoration Recognition Award."
 - All of the SHC members liked the name for the award.
- *Mr. Williams made a motion to award the 2023 Preservation Award to Camp Wonderland and the Salvation Army for the restoration of the White House (a.k.a. the Henry T. Billings House). Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The SHC voted 4 – 0 to approve the motion (Grasfield, Martin, Schofield, Williams).*
- The SHC will plan with the Salvation Army to make a public presentation of the award (possibly at the property).
- *Mr. Martin made a motion to award the Restoration Recognition Award to Diane Needle's property at 62 South Main Street. Ms. Schofield seconded the motion. The SHC voted 4 – 0 to approve the motion (Grasfield, Martin, Schofield, Williams).*

6. Topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting

- **Moose Hill Farmhouse:** Mr. Martin and the Chair viewed the house again with a potential candidate to move the house in its entirety to another location. The Audubon management would like the house moved or demolished prior to June 1, 2024.
- **New historic district:** The Initial Study Report is being drafted. A placeholder for the warrant article will be submitted by January 19, 2024.
- **Historic Inventory Project:** Michaela Jergensen is contacting historic preservation consultants to get estimates on undertaking the SHC's proposed project. One firm that she contacted is much too expensive for the SHC to consider. She is reaching out to other smaller qualified firms.
- **104 Massapoag Avenue:** The architect for the project has submitted an updated drawing of the trim details of the front elevation. Michaela has reviewed the drawing and is satisfied with the design.

- Mr. Martin reported that the Library Re-use Committee will be conducting its meetings in a hybrid format.
- The next meeting of the SHC will be held on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 7:30 PM via Zoom.

7. Adjournment

- *Mr. Williams made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 PM. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. The SHC voted 3 – 0 (Grasfield, Martin, Williams) to approve the motion.*

Documents:

Meeting Minutes of the Sharon Historical Commission and Historic District Commission for December 27, 2023

Revised renderings for the proposed house at 208 South Main Street provided by Mohammad Diallo