**Hopedale Historical Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016**

**Little Red Shop Museum**

**12 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts**

**Present:** Jonathan Chase, Chairman; Raymond Andreotti, Treasurer; Suzan Ciaramicoli, Recording Secretary; Kelly Merchant (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)

**Absent:** Frederick Oldfield, III

**Guest:** Jennifer Smith, Management Assistant for both Roger Williams National Memorial, and the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jonathan Chase at 7:00 p.m.

The **Minutes of the January 6, 2016 HHC meeting**, prepared by Sue Ciaramicoli, were emailed to members of the HHC on 2/3/16 at 4:28 p.m. Sue also brought copies to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Jonathan Chase, and seconded by Ray Andreotti, to accept the January 6, 2016HHC Meeting Minutes as presented (and emailed). Jonathan asked if there needed to be any discussion about the last meeting’s minutes. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Local Historic District**

Jennifer was in attendance to follow-up on our September 2, 2015 HHC meeting with her and Meghan Kish, Superintendent for the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park, the New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, and the Roger Williams National Memorial about resurrecting the effort to establish an LHD (local historic district) here in Hopedale.

The National Park legislation establishing theBlackstone Valley as the 402nd unit of the National Park Service (NPS) was signed by President Obama on December 19, 2014. The new bi-state Park’s designation and purpose are to tell the story of industrialization here in the Blackstone River Valley. This legislation “has helped to put it (the desire for a local historic district) more in the forefront.” Jennifer again reflected on the mission of the NPS to create a world-class National Park in the Blackstone River Valley, Hopedale being one of the sites. This mission would be enhanced by the establishment of one or more local historic districts here in Hopedale. She was here to help the HHC sketch out a plan (going forward to begin this effort).

Some points of discussion were as follows:

* Need to begin an internal “discussion”
* Seek out guest speakers who might be able to help
* Review potential and previously expressed (in prior local efforts) concerns for the Town of Hopedale

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Two**

**February 3, 2016**

* + Other surrounding towns already having LHDs?
    - Grafton
    - Uxbridge
    - Hopkinton
* We need examples and good practices
* What about efforts by Whitinsville? Mendon?
* What are the pros and cons?
* Strategies?
* Get our Park Commissioners involved due to our thought of including the Parklands as part of a LHD
* Hold a public meeting
  + Meet with the different Town boards beforehand

“We” have about 18 more months to get a boundary proposal for the NPS. A local historic district helps to insure the preservation of the resources historic fabric of Hopedale as a part of the National Park. The key difference with this national historic park model is that the NPS takes **no ownership** of any part of the Park.

The bigger benefit would be capital projects, such as:

* Signage
* Interpretive trails
* Benches
* Lighting (upgrades)
* Boating
* Science education
* Trains
* Visitor and resident experience

**Action items:**

* Jen will reach out to Grafton, Uxbridge, and Hopkinton (Holliston?)
* Kelly M. will reach out to Heidi Larouco regarding a contact she may have in Holliston
* “Board Circuit” – start reaching out to: Parks Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board, Selectmen, Conservation Commission, School Committee, Town Administrator, etc.

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Three**

**February 3, 2016**

* Public meeting(s) – need to begin information gathering – open an active dialogue with these “Boards” first
  + Submit write-ups to the local newspapers
  + Hopedale local cable show?
* Establish a proposal with boundaries
* Determine funding cycle helpful to this effort
* This effort will put Hopedale on a national level, there being only 401 other national parks in the U.S.
  + Has any other National Park begun as a utopian community?

**To quote Jennifer, “It’s the ‘shot’ we have!”**

**Continuation of HHC business meeting – 8:05 p.m.**

**Treasurer’s Report** – Ray reported the following expenses (including a late November expense) totaling $644.92:

* Eco-pest Systems - $95.00 LRSM
* Constellation (supplier for National Grid – catch-up charges)
  + Constellation – November 2015 - $14.64
  + Constellation – December 2015 - $54.02
* Constellation – January 2016 - $ 67.36 LRSM
* National Grid (electric) – January 2016 - $67.05 LRSM
* Comcast – $85.66 LRSM
* Eversource (gas) – December - $50.44 LRSM
* Eversource (gas) – January - $134.09 LRSM
* Verizon - $12.92 LRSM – monthly allocation made to LRSM by the Town.
* Water & Sewer - $76.66 HHC

A motion was made by Kelly Merchant and seconded by Ray to reimburse Sue for $133.14 in expenses.

* Home Depot - shovel ($9.97), flashlights ($13.48), step stool ($39.80), reflective markers for walkway/patio ($23.88), coffee = $133.14
* SignsPlus - new signboard letters ($21.00)
* Honey Dew Donuts – coffee for volunteers on loom moving day out of storage ($25.01)

Jonathan asked if there needed to be any discussion about these expenses. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Four**

**February 3, 2016**

**2015 BHC Partnership Grant and Cataloging Project**

Ray reported that he has located 100% cotton light-weight **archival gloves** for the Cataloging Project from ArchivalGloves.com. They are $5.95/dozen. A motion was made by Kelly Merchant and seconded by Jonathan Chase for Ray to order a couple dozen of the gloves.

Jonathan asked if there needed to be any discussion about this expense. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Museum Collections Care – storage research.** Ray reported that he has located a website for Archival Photo Storage items called *Get Smart Products*. The website is pfile.com.

***Nomenclature 3.0*** - Jonathan has not yet purchased the book, but plans to do so for next month’s HHC meeting.

**Loom Storage Reimbursement** - Documentation was submitted to Charlene Perkins Cutler, BHC, on December 28, 2015. Jonathan reported that he has still not received a response, but will follow-up with Charlene.

Sue asked to be included on any emails and to be provided with the *Expenditure & Matching Outlay Report* submitted to Charlene as well as the request for an extension for the Project for inclusion in the official records of the HHC.

It was noted that **volunteers** are still needed for sorting of photos and artifacts. Sue said that she could put something out on the LRSM Facebook page. Kelly offered to bring poster board and marker supplies for the first cataloging work-session.

It was suggested that Sue speak with Karen at SignsPlus for possible recommendations for a scanner purchase for this project.

Sue reported that she had contacted **PastPerfect Museum** **Software** regarding the cost of their **annual support service**. Sue was given a “special” offer price of $299. A motion was made by Sue Ciaramicoli and seconded by Kelly Merchant to purchase the annual support service for $299.

Jonathan asked if there needed to be any discussion about this expense. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Five**

**February 3, 2016**

**AASLH Membership –** Sue researched the benefits for the different levels of institutional membership and determined that the LRSM is best suited to purchase a basic institutional membership. She believes the cost to be $100. A motion was made by Sue Ciaramicoli and seconded by Ray Andreotti to purchase a basic institutional membership to the AASLH for $100.

Jonathan asked if there needed to be any discussion about this expense. Because she was not certain as to the exact price of this level of membership, Sue said that she would send an email to all HHC members to approve any change.

Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about this expense. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

A motion was made by Kelly Merchant and seconded by Ray Andreotti for the meeting to adjourn at 8:57 p.m. Due to the late hour, Sue offered to report on other items, by way of an addendum, to these published minutes.

Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about this. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ciaramicoli, HHC Recording Secretary

**Addendum**

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* **BHC Annual Report** – response to Bonnie Combs. HHC included in email - 1/15/16
* **Loom storage check copies to Jonathan –** emailed1/12/16
* **JSHS Cupola** – met with Pam Smith 1/15/16
* **BHC Partnership Grant Cataloging Project** – notes prepared and emailed to HHC - 1/24/16
* **NCCHP –** email from Jay Jones received 12/8/16; response sent 1/11/16
* **LHD** – response sent to Steve Sette on question about existing historic district/by-laws – HHC included in email - 1/29/16
* **Draper Complex Inquiry** – Michael Butts – adult student project – sustainability – pods – fielded two phone calls with him totaling about an hour
* **Festival Program Grant** – email rec’d from Susan Brouwer 1/20/16. Due 3/3/16. Program must take place 3/1 – 8/31, 2016.
* **Past Perfect Training** email to HHC members 2/3/16