**Hopedale Historical Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 1, 2016**

**Little Red Shop Museum**

**12 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts**

**Present:** Jonathan Chase, Co-Chairman; Raymond Andreotti, Treasurer; Suzan Ciaramicoli, Co-Chairman and Recording Secretary; Kelly Merchant (7:14 p.m.); Frederick Oldfield, III

**Guests:** Jennifer Smith, Management Assistant, Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park; Mike Roughan, Chairman, Hopkinton Historical Commission Local Historic District; Claire Wright; Nancy Stevenson; Barbara Kochon, nominee for the Hopedale Historical Commission.

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman, Jonathan Chase at 7:07 p.m.

**Guests’ Topic of Discussion: Local Historic District (LHD)**

An invitation to come to our June meeting, to share their experience about local historic districts, was accepted by Michael Roughan, Chair, and Claire Wright, Vice Chair of the Hopkinton Historical Commission. Claire is also the Chair of one of their Local Historic Districts. Also attending was one of their colleagues, Nancy Stevenson.

* Hopkinton has two LHDs – their downtown and Woodville. The regulations are more lenient in the Woodville LHD because the priority was to “save” the structures rather than to focus on such things as paint color.
* The Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC) is appointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS).
* Residents wanting to make changes within the LHD need to obtain a “certificate of appropriateness” from the LHD.
* The Demolition Delay Law is key to historical preservation.
* The goal is retain the architectural features of existing structures; so as to continue an appearance “in keeping with” the LHD.
* Need to recruit “allies” within the proposed LHD; including any businesses.
* Hold several “little meetings” to build interest and support within the Town.
* The objective is to make sure that houses “stay.”
* Historic preservation restrictions are governed by the LHDC. The LHDC exists to govern any permanent changes made to structures in the LHD.
* Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds are very helpful in providing the funds needed for historic preservation. The Town of Mendon has CPA funding through its tax base.
* Another goal is to keep from “losing the historic fabric” of the LHD. It is the concept of maintaining “streetscapes” and the “fabric” that tells the story.
* Need to be able to justify why properties within the proposed LHD are important.
* It was suggested to check with Somerville and Arlington about grant opportunities.

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Jennifer Smith shared that the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park is made up of 4 mill villages, Slater Mill and the Blackstone River State Park. The four nodes in Rhode Island are much further along than Hopedale and Whitinsville in the LHD process. Ashton and Slatersville already had LHDs.

The mission of the NPS is to enforce the standard of historical preservation as outlined by the Secretary of the Interior as we “tell the industrial story” of the BRVNHP.

What’s the “carrot” for funding? Jennifer suggests:

* “Think BIG”
* Best for a LHD to be contiguous
* We need to think of the “***visitor experience***!”
* Need to get the local media involved.
* Preferable to include “mill housing.”
* Need to get local folks interested in preserving the historical character of the proposed LHD.

**Continuation of HHC business meeting – 8:30 p.m.**

The **Minutes of the May 4, 2016 HHC meeting**, prepared by Sue Ciaramicoli, were emailed to members of the HHC on 6/1/16 at 3:12 p.m. Sue also brought copies to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Ray Andreotti, and seconded by Kelly Merchant, to accept the May 4, 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.

**Treasurer’s Report** – no current information was available from the Town Accountant.

**BHC Partnership Grant**

* There were no work sessions held since the last HHC meeting.
* **Partnership Grant Project Reimbursement Status -** Sue and Jonathan attended a follow-up meeting with Megan DiPrete, BHC Deputy Director, on May 20th.
* In order to secure and support the reimbursement of some funds from the Grant, Sue did present evidence of the in-kind costs associated with moving the looms from Don Howes, G & U Logistix, Noble and Cooley Drum Company, NCCHP, and an up-to-date worksheet of Project Volunteer hours/costs.

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* Sue prepared and presented a HHC 2016-2016 budget recap and a detailed Cataloging Project Funding Request to the Friends of Historic Hopedale at their May 11th meeting. Sue requested approximately $1,700 and was awarded up to $2,500 for the Project.

**BRVNHP Stakeholder Meetings** – Sue attended a meeting on May 11th at the Slater Mill. Jonathan attended a second meeting on May 25th at Alternatives in Whitinsville.

**GO! Event** – Sue is working with BHC Marketing Director, Bonnie Combs to co-sponsor an event here at the LRSM to coincide with Day in the Park on September 17th.

* Sue and Kelly met with Town Administrator, Steve Sette, on May 10th to fill us in on his recent meeting with National Park Service personnel, Jen Smith and Meghan Kish, who represent the Blackstone Valley National Historical Park.

**Miscellaneous needed follow-up:**

* Wesley Hixon re potential artifact donations to the LRSM
* Mr. William Savory, who has a portrait of Dorothy Draper Gannett (sister of Bill Gannett), that was painted by the artist William Draper around 1940. He would like to donate it to the LRSM.

**Flag Day** – Sue approached the FoHH at their May 11th meeting to cover the cost of the plaque for Tom McGovern. They granted this request. Atria Draper Place will provide refreshments. Sue is working with Tom McGovern and Tommy Beder to plan the details of this event. Ray showed us his painting of Tom McGovern done for presentation Tom McGovern at the event.

**Trademark Room Bookcase Project** – No progress.

**New *Town of Hopedale* Website** – As the new HHC webpage administrator, Sue Ciaramicoli, participated in a 2 hour on-line training webinar on May 5th. Sue has made some updates to the HHC webpage and has begun uploading the most recent agendas and minutes.

**Third Grader Walking Field Trip Visits:**

The planned visits to the Little Red Shop Museum by the Hopedale third grade students:

Wednesday, June 8th: one class from 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. and one class from 10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Friday, June 10th: one class from 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. and one class from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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At the May 11th Stakeholder meeting, Sue talked with Ranger Chuck Arning about the possibility of a Park Ranger “dropping in” when Hopedale’s third graders come to visit (the Volunteer Curator) at the Little Red Shop Museum.  This is part of the “NPS Park Ranger 100 Site Visits” goal over this summer, to commemorate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

When Sue visited with Suzanne and Bonnie in May at the new BHC location in Whitinsville, she happened to notice in one of their offices that there is a Centennial Junior Ranger Activity Book.  She asked about their general availability and Suzanne said that she would inquire about the possibility of (perhaps) obtaining 100 of these booklets to distribute to the third graders when they visit.  Bonnie also forwarded Sue the PDF for the booklet.  Even if Sue could get some quantity of the booklets, then she would try to get others printed for any others not getting the original booklet.  At the very least, with Hopedale as one of the “nodes,” She would love to have a supply (maybe 25) for the Little Red Shop Museum.

**Prospect for Historical Commission Membership**

Guest and prospective Hopedale Historical Commission member, Barbara Kochon excused herself from the meting so that the HHC might speak candidly about her joining the Commission. With little discussion and total consensus, it was agreed that Barbara would be a much welcome addition to the HHC. Sue will contact Barbara to apprise her of the decision and will provide her with a sample appointment letter that she would need to send to the BOS requesting appointment for their next meeting.

A motion was made by Kelly Merchant and seconded by Fred Oldfield for the meeting to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ciaramicoli, HHC Co-Chair and Recording Secretary