Hopedale Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 1, 2017

Little Red Shop Museum

12 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts

**Present:** Jonathan Chase, Co-Chairman; Raymond Andreotti, Treasurer; Suzan Ciaramicoli, Co-Chairman and Recording Secretary; Barbara Kochon; and Fred Oldfield

**Absent:** Kelly Merchant

**Guests:** Stephanie McCallum; High School Senior Alyssa Pool and her mom Grace Pool

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Jonathan Chase at 7:05 p.m.

Sue Ciaramicoli introduced our guests, here to learn more about the possibility of serving on the Local Historic District Study Committee. Sue and other HHC Committee members shared the history and charge of the Local Historic District Study Committee.

The **Minutes of the February 1, 2017 HHC meeting**, prepared by Sue Ciaramicoli, were emailed to members of the HHC on 3/1/17 at 6:42 p.m. Sue also brought copies to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Ray Andreotti and seconded by Fred Oldfield, to accept the Meeting Minutes as emailed. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about the last meeting’s minutes. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Ray Andreotti

**February expenses**

Cleaning by Kelly - $100.00

National Grid - $142.52 (2/9)

NStar (Eversource) - $114.27 (2/5)

Comcast - $97.53 (2/10)

Verizon - $12.95 (2/6)

Sue made a motion to pay $110 to Kelly Merchant for shoveling for two snowstorms at the Museum. The motion was seconded by Fred Oldfield, as presented. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about the reimbursement request. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

Barbara asked why the Town did not do the shoveling at the Museum. Sue shared that she believed that the Town did not do the shoveling at the Library either. Fred shared that the Town now does the shoveling at the Library because the Library no longer has its own custodian. Sue will check with Town Administrator Steve Sette to see if the Town will do shoveling at the Museum as well.

At the December 7, 2016 HHC meeting, a motion was made by Jonathan Chase and seconded by Ray Andreotti for Sue to spend up to $200 on a folding chair dolly for the LRSM. Tonight, Sue asked that a total of $232.96 be approved for the cost of the chair rack that she has ordered for the Museum. A motion was made by Barbara Kochon and seconded by Fred Oldfield to reimburse Sue for $232.96 for the cost of the two-tier folding chair dolly. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about the reimbursement request. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

Sue reported that she had obtained a two drawer file cabinet, on casters, from the Assessor’s office. Upon inspection of the casters, it was determined that the casters, and grip neck stems, were broken. Sue

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researched the Internet, found the parts and ordered them. Sue asked that a total of $43.94 be approved for the cost of the stems and casters that she has ordered for the Museum. A motion was made by Sue and seconded by Fred Oldfield to reimburse Sue for $43.94 for the cost of the parts. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about the reimbursement request. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Friends of Historic Hopedale** - Sue reported that she attended the Friends of Historic Hopedale on February 16th and requested that they pay the $150 cost of painting the newly constructed bookcase. Treasurer Jed Marshall will issue the check.

Sue also asked the Friends to consider authorizing the reallocation of previously voted funds designated for the **BHC Partnership Grant Cataloging Project** at the Museum. Originally, it was thought that funds from the Friends, for the purchases of equipment needed, would qualify for reimbursement to the Historical Commission from the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Partnership Grant. It was later learned that all funds must be expended by the Historical Commission in order to qualify for reimbursement.

The Friends originally voted to donate $500 towards the construction of the bookcase and $2,500 towards equipment purchases as outlined in a proposal presented by Sue Ciaramicoli at their May 11, 2016 meeting. **At this month’s meeting, they voted to now reauthorize the $3,000 to be utilized in ways to further extend the benefits of the purchases made by the Historical Commission with the Partnership Grant funds:**

* More professionally display many of the newly discovered artifacts, documents, and photographs, such as professional framing.
* Utilize funds to upgrade the existing computer at the Museum, and/or or to purchase one or two new laptops for the Museum for volunteer and patron use while at the Museum.
* Improve electrical services, such as lighting, fixtures, and /or power outlets in the Museum areas such as the loom area, Curator’s office, and/or work space on the south side of the Museum.

During the Friends meeting, Bev inquired about the **engineering study** done (by Gale Associates and dated June 9, 2013) a few years ago that was to address the need for moisture remediation in the basement of the Museum. Sue told Bev that she had a scanned copy of the Study and the videos taken by Toby Booth in the basement during a torrential rain storm that showed water flowing into the basement area. Bev said that she had some engineering contacts who she would ask to review the study and make recommendations. Bev said that she would like to meet with Town Administrator Steve Sette to see if we might be able to resurrect this Project. Sue had already spoken with Steve to let him know that the Friends were prepared to make a considerable contribution towards the Museum’s wet basement problem.

*Related to this discussion: Sue spoke with Town Administrator Steve Sette to ask the following:*

* *Is Gale Associates Hopedale’s exclusive engineering firm?* ***No.***
* *Sue and Steve discussed the gutters and drainage issues.*
* *Steve said he would talk with the Department head of the Water Department and the Fire Chief about testing the drainage system. Steve said both departments have the ability to do the testing.*
* *Sue asked who would serve as “clerk of the works” should the moisture remediation project come to fruition. Sue shared that Gene Phillips, Town Coordinator, had served as “clerk of the works” for the restoration of the Little Red Shop Museum in 2007.*
* *Steve said that any bids/contracts would need to go through his office.*

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* *Steve mentioned that he might ask the Head of the Highway Department to serve in that capacity and to oversee any excavation and grading.*

The Friends asked if we were still interested in holding a **Historic Holiday House Tour**. The Friends/Historical Commission has held one every 5 years, beginning in 1997, the last one held in 2012. Sue said she would ask Barbara Kochon, who had expressed interest in possibly chairing the event.

The Friends, along with the Parks Commission, held a **Hopedale Pond Side Fire** community event on February 11th that was attended by approximately 150 people. A special “fire pit” was built by local businessman and welder Don Howes. Local businessman, Walter Swift, owner of Swift’s Creative Landscaping, donated $200 towards refreshments. Other refreshments were provided by Atria Draper Place, the Town Common Restaurant, and the Friends.

Sue also reported to the Friends about the status of the **Local Historic District Study Committee**. In fact, on the way out of the meeting, Beverly Carver, newly elected President of the Friends, said that she would like very much to serve on the Study Committee.

**Blackstone Heritage Corridor Partnership Grant – wrap up.** Megan DiPrete, Deputy Director, BHC, requested a letter to formally “close out” the Blackstone Heritage Corridor Partnership Grant awarded in April 2015 to the Hopedale Historical Commission. Sue prepared and mailed the letter on February 5, 2017. The letter includes this statement, “The intended scope of work, as amended, is complete; no additional contract extension will be sought; and the remaining grant funds ($11,274.89), committed to this project, and are hereby released.”

The final check, $2,555.11, received for the Partnership Grant was deposited on February 28th

**Curator’s Report** - Sue showed the Committee several artifacts that have been professionally framed:

* American Legion **Women’s Auxiliary Charter/Founding members**
* World War II Bond Thank You Certificates to the American Legion
* Copy of the **Community House and Unitarian Church Interpretive Sign** (the actual sign was installed at the corner of Draper and Hopedale Streets in May 2015)
* Certificate of service for WWI Hopedale veteran William Larson. Sue will reach out to his grandson, who lives in Hopedale. **Jonathan will do some research to get more information about Mr. Larson’s his regiment.**

Prisoners, under the direction of the **Worcester County Sheriff’s office**, have been doing some painting and cleaning at the Town Hall. Sue asked Town Administrator, Steve Sette, to see if they might also be available to paint the exterior of the Little Red Shop Museum, or to maybe wash the windows, inside and out.

**Karen Pendleton** has been working at the Museum with Sue as part of the **Senior (Citizen) Tax Program**. Additionally, Hopedale High School Senior **Alyssa Pool** has been volunteering on Friday afternoons after school. Alyssa and her Girl Scout Troop will assemble the **Hopedale History Bead Bracelet kits** for the third graders, who will be coming for their in-town field trip on June 2nd. The third graders will begin visiting the **Museum as part of their Hopedale Scavenger Hunt Project in early April.**

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**Fire Alarm –** Sue contacted **Cintas** because of a trouble beeping signal coming from the alarm box located in the office at the Museum. Sue met with Brian, from Cintas, on February 23rd, who came to the Museum to assess the Museum’s needs. As it turns out, the alarm box has never been serviced, nor has there been an inspection of the other fire alarm equipment in the Museum, including the fire extinguisher. We have only paid an annual monitoring fee. We do not have a service contract with them or anyone else. Sue will check with Ann Fields, Library Director, and building manager Tom Hannamm, of the JSHS regarding their experience with another alarm company, Custom Alarm to determine options.

**Historical Commission 2016 Annual Report –** Sue prepared the Commission’s report to be included in the Town of Hopedale’s FY 2016 Annual Report. Barbara Kochon helped by reviewing the report and making some recommendations for possible changes.

**Town Hall Draper Room Historic Portraits –** one is in desperate need of repair; another has about a 5 inch tear in the canvas, and all are in need of cleaning. HHC Treasurer Ray Andreotti has offered to repair the portrait that is in the worst condition.

Sue was contacted by Matt McCarthy, inquiring about the **DraperX3 looms**. He lives in Norwood, Massachusetts and is possibly interested in obtaining loom(s) to possibly re-manufacture denim here in Massachusetts again. Sue did let him know that our looms are in storage at the Noble and Cooley Center for Historic Preservation in Granville, Mass. Sue will follow-up with him at some point.

**Local Historic District Study Committee** – Sue sent emails to follow-up with folks about possibly serving on the Committee. Folks were invited to attend one of two meetings to learn more about the Committee: February 23rd, and at tonight’s meeting. No one came to the meeting on the 23rd. Josh Otlin, Lisa Alberto, Adele Stock, and Deb Hodgens all stated that they were unable to serve on the Committee, but would help in some way if asked.

Barbara Kochon shared that Virginia has agreed to serve on this committee. Sue will reach out again to both Bev Carver and Walter Swift.

Sue requested to have the Local Historic District Study Committee appointments be added to the Board of Selectmen’s agenda for Monday, March 6th.

A motion was made by Barbara Kochon and seconded by Fred Oldfield for the meeting to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ciaramicoli, HHC Co-Chair and Recording Secretary