**Hopedale Historical Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, August 3, 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; Barbara Kochon (7:07 p.m.)

Absent: Kelly Merchant, Frederick Oldfield, III

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

Copies of the **Minutes of the July 6, 2016 HHC meeting**, prepared by Sue Ciaramicoli, were brought to the meeting for review. Sue later emailed them to members of the HHC on 8/5/16 at 10:05 a.m. A motion was made by Jonathan Chase and seconded by Barbara Kochon, to accept the July 6, 2016HHC Meeting Minutes as presented. 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**

**July expenses**

* 7/06/16 100.00 Kelly’s Cleaning
* 7/10/16 110.91 Comcast
* 7/13/16   85.08 National Grid
* 7/15/16 91.38 Water & Sewer
* 7 /19/16 95.00 Eco-Systems Pest Control
* 7/28/16  19.00 Eversource

The Museum was **open on Sunday, July 10th**. Lisa DiVittorio, Connie Potter, and Karen Pendleton volunteered their time that day to work on the Cataloging Project. Additional work party sessions were held 7/19, 7/20, 7/21, and 7/24.

The Museum will not be open this coming Sunday, August 7th as originally planned. Sue is not available to staff the Museum that day.

**BHC Partnership Grant**

As stated above, there were work sessions held 7/10, 7/19, 7/20, 7/21, and 7/24.

**Project Reimbursement Status -** Sue has not yet prepared a new reimbursement request for Jonathan’s signature to exclude the cataloging volunteer hours from this request.

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Two**

**August 3, 2016**

**GO! Event** – September 17th – brochures by the Blackstone Heritage Corridor (BHC) have been delivered throughout the Blackstone Valley. In Hopedale, there are brochures at the LRSM and Town Hall. The LRSM is sponsoring this event. Help to staff the Museum is needed that day.

**Miscellaneous still needing follow-up:**

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

**Trademark Room Bookcase Project** – Sue contacted Tom Beder twice in July. No progress.

**Local Historic District**

Sue has not yet prepared the minutes for the HHC Special Meeting held on June 29th. That meeting was held to begin brainstorming the process of reaching out to prospective members for the Local Historic District Study Committee that must be appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Barbara reported that she had spoken with Dan Malloy to see if he would consider serving on the LHDSC. He is unable to do so due to a number of other commitments.

In accordance with MGL 40C, Historic Districts Act, Sue will draft the letters requesting nominees, to go out over the signatures of the Board of Selectmen to:

* Historical Society (Commission) – Hopedale has not had a Historical Society for decades
* Board of Realtors (Barbara Kochon obtained the address)
* American Institute of Architects (Barbara Kochon obtained the address)

**Sue will also request that the vote to form a LHDSC once again appear on the agenda for the next BOS meeting, scheduled for Monday, August 15th.**

Jonathan will contact Chris Skelly, MHC, to request that he do his presentation about “Establishing Historical Districts,” on Monday, November 7th. Sue will contact Tara Chambers at the Community House about the availability of a room for the presentation.

The HHC discussed ideas for publicity for this presentation to the community – tax bill insert, sign board, Hopedale Cable, Hopedale monthly newspaper, social media, and local newspapers.

It was agreed that the HHC would hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 18th, at 7 p.m. at the LRSM for the purpose of follow-up discussion/action items for solicitation of prospective nominees for the LHDSC.

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Three**

**August 3, 2016**

**Other**

Sue attended the Bill and Nancy Gannett Estate Auction on July 8th. Sue shared that there were many photo albums and scrapbooks containing history of the Gannett/Draper Families. They were included in the Auction. Fortunately, Mike Diorio, of the Hopedale Foundation, and Steve Ellis (his father is the Vice Chairman of the Hopedale Community House) were present at the Auction. Sue shared with them how important she felt that these “treasures” needed to remain in Hopedale. Mike placed the winning bids for several of the scrapbooks/photo albums. Sue expressed sincerest thanks to Mike and Steve and is greatly relieved that they will remain in Hopedale and will be available to “us” through the Community House. Hopefully, some of the contents of these scrapbooks/photo albums will be scanned into the Little Red Shop Museum’s Past Perfect database. Steve Ellis, and his wife Lynne, are purchasing the Gannett Estate.

Sue purchased about a dozen copies of “Five Generations of Loom Builders” for sale in the LRSM Gift Shoppe.

In attendance at the Auction was Caroline Draper (Macy) Savory, the great niece of Bill Gannett. She is the daughter of William Savory, the gentleman who coincidently contacted us about donating a portrait of Dorothy Draper, daughter of Governor Eben S. Draper, and mother of Bill

Gannett. Caroline’s husband expressed concern about the donation, sharing that members of the family have indicated their interest in keeping the painting. The portrait was painted by William Draper, the artist. Of note, at the Auction, were gowns worn by both Nancy Draper, wife of Governor Draper and their daughter Dorothy Draper Gannett. Sue’s understanding is that there were museums that bid on these items.

**Historical Portraits, Frames, and Pictures - Town Hall**

Barbara Kochon met with Town Administrator, Steve Sette to view the portraits in the Draper Room and to let him know that the HHC will investigate the cost for restoring these historical treasured portraits. They were unable to locate the other pictures (previously displayed in the hallway) at this time.

Jonathan offered to investigate funding sources for the aforementioned restorations - Bank of America (BOA) (non-profit grant), Getty Foundation, and Kress Foundation. Additionally, he offered to write the grant requests. It was suggested that we determine who the portraits are of and to prioritize them in accordance with their condition.

Sue will inventory the portraits and look for the other artwork in Town Hall that previously hung in the hallway. We will then seek out art restorers. Ray will check with the Library and Community House to determine who they used recently. Identify each portrait by year, artist, subject, condition, and historical significance.

**HHC Meeting Minutes**

**Page Four**

**August 3, 2016**

During this meeting, Steve appeared to be very supportive of the effort to appoint a Local Historic District Study Committee (LHDSC), and also shared that he felt that the Board of Selectmen were very much “on board.” He also gave Barbara some pen and ink prints that he found in the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Ray Andreotti and seconded by Barbara Kochon for the meeting to adjourn at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ciaramicoli, HHC Co-Chair and Recording Secretary