**Hopedale Historical Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, October 5, 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; Kelly Merchant, and Fred Oldfield

**Absent:** No HHC Commission Members were absent

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

The **Minutes** of the **September 7, 2016 HHC Monthly Meeting**, prepared by Sue Ciaramicoli, were emailed to members of the HHC on 10/5/16 at 12:01 a.m. Sue also brought copies to the meeting for review. A motion was made by Jonathan Chase and seconded by Fred Oldfield, to accept the September 7, 2016HHC Meeting Minutes as presented. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about the last meeting’s minutes.

Barbara Kochon asked that the minutes reflect that Ray Andreotti had spoken to Adele Stock and Deb Hodgens about serving on the Local Historic District Study Committee, and that they had indicated that they would be willing to serve on the Study Committee. There being no additional items for discussion, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Ray Andreotti

**September expenses**

* 08/29/16 $ 19.00 Eversource (posted 9/8/16)
* 09/09/16 $ 84.86 National Grid (posted 9/22/16)
* 09/10/16 $ 95.51 Comcast (posted 9/22/16)

Sue presented two invoices for approval, both from TwM Computer Systems.

* **$95.00** - On 9/15, an annual cleaning/preventive maintenance, checkup, and curator email installation took place. This included software for remote support for backups, system issues, and virus updating was also installed.
* **$120.00** – TwMCLOUD managed backup services - 20 GB plan, at a discounted rate of $20/month ($240/year).

A motion was made by Fred Oldfield and seconded by Kelly Merchant to approve the payment of these two invoices. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion about these two invoices. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

Additionally, TwM has ordered: two U32 1 TB USB backup hard drives ($80 each) and a Diamond VC500 USB 2.0 One Touch VHS to DVD Video Capture Device ($37). This invoice,

totaling $197, will be submitted to the Friends of Historic Hopedale as part of their commitment to cover $2,500 of the BHC Partnership Grant Cataloging Project-related costs.

On September 29th, in accordance with her request, Sue provided Jennifer Smith, NPS, with an update on Hopedale’s LHD Study Committee. An excerpt follows:

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*On Monday, September 19th, the Board of Selectmen voted: “to establish, under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40C, General Laws, a Local Historic District Study Committee consisting of 3-7 members, which shall make an investigation and report on the historic significance of the buildings, structures, features, sites and/or surroundings, included in such proposed local historic district (or districts) and a draft of the proposed ordinance (bylaw), to Town Meeting.”*

*As you may recall, MGL Chapter 40C, Section 4 requires a nomination process that includes the local Historical Society, Board of Realtors, and the American Institute of Architects. A request for nominees must be sent to these organizations by the Selectmen. Each organization is requested to submit two nominees.  They have 30 days to reply.  Prior to the Board of Selectmen’s meeting, I (Sue) drafted three such nominee request letters, to be sent over the signature of Steve Sette, Town Administrator, on behalf of the Selectmen.  My (Sue’s) understanding is that those letters were mailed the next day.*

Additionally, at the Selectmen’s September 19th meeting, Sue presented a “clarification document” about the difference between a national historic district and a local historic district. Sue read from the document for public record.  Board of Selectmen meetings are broadcast over local cable and the meetings are “streamed” on the Town’s website. It was felt that this clarification was imperative given the extent of the misinterpretation of information and misinformation that appeared in the published June 20, 2016 Board of Selectmen Minutes.

We received great “press” in the Milford Daily News about the LHDSC request (to the Board of Selectmen) in an article by Christopher Gavin on June 22nd.  A document was provided beforehand, to the reporter by Sue, so that correct information would be published.

Chris Skelley, Director of Local Government Programs at the Massachusetts Historical Commission, will be making an important public presentation titled ***Establishing Local Historic Districts - Historic Preservation in Hopedale*** on Monday, November 14th, at 7 p.m. at the Little Red Shop Museum.

Following up on the publicity discussion at last month’s meeting, on September 29th, Sue contacted Chris Skelley to see if he typically publicizes his regional workshops in ways other than his monthly e-newsletter. He said no.

Additionally, Sue inquired about placing a flyer, about the upcoming presentation, as an insert with Hopedale’s water or tax bills. Sue was given permission by Tim Watson, Manager of the Water and Sewer Department to do so. The mailing of the water bills were even delayed a day to accommodate this request. Sue designed the flyer.  The Historical Commission will pay the difference in the printing/mailing cost. The flyer will be delivered to approximately 2,000 households in Hopedale.

Sue attended a workshop presentation in Worcester on September 22nd, by Chris Skelly, on **Historic Preservation: With or Without a Local Historic District** (sponsored by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission).

**Curator’s Report**

On September 9th, Sue met with Jennifer Smith, NPS, at the Little Red Shop Museum, and representatives of the contractor they have hired to develop a **sign plan** for all of the sites and mill villages in the **new National Park**. The contractor wants to see the landscape and discuss sign content and placement.

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At the request of Bev Carver, Atria Draper Place, the Museum was open from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 11th. She asked if the Museum could be open following their ceremony held to honor the **15th Anniversary of 9/11**.

**Go! Event/Day in the Park -** The Museum was open from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. on September 17th. Bonnie Combs, Marketing Director at the BHC, co-hosted the event, setting up a table outside the Museum to share information about the new National Park, the Blackstone Heritage Corridor partnership with the National Park Service, and the BHC’s ongoing initiative of “Trashing Responsibly.”

A few new volunteers responded to Sue’s request for help at the Museum for the event: Hope Ann Perkins, Vicki Quinn, and Matt Masnik. Matt purchased, assembled and donated two additional racks for storage of materials at the Museum. HHC members Jon, Kelly, and Ray also helped to staff the Museum. Additionally, Deb Adamczyk, from Warren Massachusetts, came to weave on the barn loom. She has been unable to come here to weave since last December. Sue wrote thank you notes to the volunteers for their help.

While cleaning up after the Event, Kelly and Sue heard a **woodpecker**. It was making a hole in the siding near one of the windows on the front of the Museum. On Monday, Sue called Eco Pest Systems to come out to see if the Museum might have an insect problem near the window. The technician inspected the hole and placed some preventive material in the hole. He does not believe we have an insect issue, but suggested that we keep an eye on it.

Kelly shared that her brother provided an **estimate of $120 for painting the bookcases**. Sue will purchase the primer and the paint. We all agreed on Mocha Java (Sherwin Williams) for the bookcase so that it will “blend” better with the existing railing, and not be so obvious.

Sue also asked if Kelly could get an **estimate** from him for **painting** the stripped **wooden table** donated by Vicki Quinn several years ago. She suggested that we consider a color scheme of the Red Shop (Pilgrim Red) and green (Essex green).

Sue shared that she believes that the **exterior of the Museum needs to be painted again** (done in 2013). There appears to have been only a thin coating of paint applied at the time. The HHC agreed that Sue could request some quotes.

There is some **remediation work** needing to be done at the Museum. At the very least, the threshold for the front double-door is rotted and needs to be replaced. The source of the water problem at the doorway needs to be remedied. There are also cracks in the door at the north entrance that need to be filled.

**BHC Partnership Grant Project Reimbursement Status -** Sue hand-delivered the reimbursement request to Megan DiPrete on September 23rd. The reimbursement has been received. Jonathan and Sue are scheduled to meet with Megan for a follow-up meeting on November 18th.

Megan shared a concern from the BHC/NPS, expressed at the recent Board meeting, about where Hopedale stood with the Local Historic District Process.

Sue was contacted by Allison Horrocks, BHC, regarding a tour that she was putting together about ***spiritualism and spirituality*** (in Hopedale) with Linda Hixon. It is planned for Sunday, October 14th. She asked if there was any chance that the Little Red Shop could be open for part of that afternoon.

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**Dorothy Draper Gannett** (sister of Bill Gannett) **portrait** – The portrait was delivered to Sue at the Town Hall, by William Savory’s niece’s husband, Jon Kries. Painted by the artist William Draper in 1941, it appears to have been done around the time of her engagement to a Thomas Macy, Jr. (of Macy’s Department fame). Sue found an article about her engagement on Dan Malloy’s website. Sue received a handwritten note from Mr. Savory declaring his intent that this portrait be donated to the Town of Hopedale. In an earlier phone conversation with Mr. Savory, he indicated that the portrait appraised at a value of $5,000.

Sue met with **electrician Joe Scanzaroli** on September 30th to discuss installation of a power strip on top of the new bookcase for patrons to plug-in their devices, as well as other electrical needs in the Curator’s office and work area. They also discussed additional lighting in the Loom Room and Curator’s office and work area and changing bulbs to LED’s.

Sue has obtained some **Walter H. Tillotson American Legion Post items** from the Town Hall basement and attic to add to the display here at the Museum.

**1898 Hopedale atlas map –** Sue was contact by a gentleman wanting to sell a map to the HHC for $100. The HHC is not interested at that price. Sue saw the same map in Town Administrator Steve Sette’s office, albeit in terrible condition. The HHC does not have funds in its budget for this.

**Miscellaneous needing follow-up:**

* Wesley Hixon regarding potential artifact donations to the LRSM

**Historical Portraits, Frames, and Pictures - Town Hall –** no update available.

**Announcements – Friends of Historic Hopedale**

* Hopedale Spooktacular 5K Run/Walk – Saturday, October 29th, 10 a.m.
* Resignations – Toby Booth and Jeanne Huie are stepping down from their positions of President and Clerk (Secretary), respectively, effective with the FoHH December 2016 meeting.
* The FoHH are in the beginning planning stage for a 2017 Holiday House Tour

**Volunteer Hours** – Suzanne Buchanan, Volunteer Coordinator of the Blackstone Heritage Corridor, announced that volunteer time is now valued at $23.56 per hour.

**LHDSC Special Meeting** – planned for Sunday, October 16th, noon. Sue will purchase pizza and salad for the meeting.

Other thoughts for this meeting:

* Sue to contact former Senator Richard Moore and Virginia Larkin
* Ray will follow-up with Adele Stock and Deb Hodgens
* Ray will contact Andrew Consigli (Tammie Road)
* Sue suggested that we meet with each of the boards
* Sue urged everyone to become very familiar with all of our LHD documentation

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Agendas must now be emailed directly to Town Clerk Lisa Pedroli’s email address, not through the Town’s website. Her email address is: lpedroli@hopedale-ma.gov.

A motion was made by Fred Oldfield and seconded by Barbara Kochon for the meeting to adjourn at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ciaramicoli, HHC Co-Chair and Recording Secretary