Hopedale Historical Commission Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

Little Red Shop Museum

12 Hopedale Street, Hopedale, Massachusetts

**Present:** Jonathan Chase, Co-Chairman; Suzan Ciaramicoli, Co-Chairman and Recording Secretary; Barbara Kochon (arrived at 7:19 p.m.); and Kelly Merchant

**Absent**: Raymond Andreotti, Treasurer; Fred Oldfield

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman Jonathan Chase at 7:04 p.m.

The **Minutes of the May 3, 2017 HHC meeting**, prepared by Sue Ciaramicoli, were emailed to members of the HHC on 6/7/17 at 7:02 a.m. Sue also brought copies to the meeting for review. A **motion** was made by Kelly Merchant and **seconded** by Jonathan Chase, 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.

**Local Historic District Study Committee** (LHDSC) – Sue reported that the Committee held its inaugural meeting on Thursday, June 1st. Suzan Ciaramicoli was elected Chairman. Barbara Kochon was elected Secretary. Other members currently include Ray Andreotti, Beverly Carver, and Walter Swift. The LHDSC voted to hold its meetings on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Little Red Shop Museum. Supplemental working meetings will be added as needed.

**Local Historic District Study Committee Mission Statement approved.** The document, as drafted and presented by Sue Ciaramicoli to the LHDSC, defines the Committee’s initial charge; initial and additional tasks, and defines the specific roles of the Chairman and Secretary.

It was agreed that the LHDSC will prepare a status report for the Board of Selectmen on a regular basis.

The LHDSC agreed that there was a need to obtain the support, and partner with, the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Planning and Zoning Boards, other Town Boards, local businesses, civic groups, realtors, educators, local newspapers, cable and other media outlets. The Committee will organize and conduct a joint meeting with Selectmen, Planning Board, Zoning Board, and the Historical Commission once it has conducted a few of its own meetings.

Sue met with Linda and Tristan Hixon on June 2nd about their offer to scan several historical glass, and B&W celluloid film, negatives from both the Bancroft Library and the Little Red Shop Museum. The meeting also resulted in an **offer by both Linda and Tristan to serve on the LHDSC**. Linda is an adjunct instructor in the History Department at Worcester State University, was raised in Hopedale, graduated in 1978 from Hopedale High School and lived in Hopedale for almost 25 years. Linda’s current research centers on the Hopedale community. She has written and presented about the early Hopedale Community and the Women of the Hopedale Sewing Circle. Tristan has studied at Quinsigamond Community College, and Worcester State and Fitchburg State Universities. He has experience in graphic design and layout.

Sue asked for a **motion** to recommend their appointment to the Board of Selectmen. A motion was made by Kelly Merchant and **seconded** by Jonathan Chase to recommend the appointment of Linda and Tristan Hixon to the Local Historic District Study Committee by the Board of Selectmen. 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. Sue will take the steps necessary to accomplish this task.

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**General Agreement (Version 1)**

***The execution of this document is one of the two requirements for inclusion within the boundaries of the Blackstone River Valley National Historical Park. The other requirement is the establishment of a Local Historic District.***

Sue reported that she met with Steve Sette and Jen Smith, NPS, regarding version one of the agreement. Sue had reviewed the document in detail and had several questions. The document will ultimately be submitted to Hopedale’s legal counsel prior to presentation to the Board of Selectmen for signature. Jen indicated that the 4 sites in Rhode Island are well ahead of Hopedale and Whitinsville. Jen will send copies of executed documents as examples for Hopedale to review.

**Friends of Historic Hopedale (FoHH)** Sue reported that she attended the monthly meeting of the FoHH held at the Little Red Shop Museum on Wednesday, May 11th. The FoHH hadn’t met at the LRSM since April 2012.

The FoHH is holding a new fundraiser proposed by Tracey Philips, a **Fairy Walk,** in the Hopedale Parklands on Saturday, June 10th. It has been wholeheartedly endorsed by the Hopedale Parks Commission. The entrance fee for submitting a “fairy house,” to be placed in the Parklands, is $25. Tracy has received applications for 50+ entries. Admission is free to the public. She has also obtained sponsors to help defray some of the costs of holding the event. Sue reported that she has prepared an entry for the event, using the Little Red Shop Museum (donation box) replica built by Bill Hardiman in the early 2000’s. Volunteers are needed to help staff the event.

After a one year hiatus for this event, Sue reported that the FoHH voted to once again sponsor the **Summer Movie Nights at the Hopedale Town Park**. With the FoHH sponsoring all five movies and paying for them in advance, the movies can be advertised to the public. A large movie screen is mounted to one of the tennis court chain link enclosures for viewing and is free of charge to the public.

June 23rd        “Back to the Future”

July 7th          “Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark”

July 21st           “Big”

August 11th          “Johnny Dangerously”

August 25th          “Mrs. Doubtfire”

**Electrical Work at the LRSM** – The FoHH has paid an invoice totaling $697.50 for electrical work done at the LRSM. This includes the wiring and installation of two multi-plug power strips (bookcase and Loom Room work area); LED fixture and two additional outlets (one under curator’s cubicle) in the work area in south end of LRSM. The funds are from the $3,500 pledged by the FoHH for items related to the BHC Partnership Grant for Cataloging Project items.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Sue Ciaramicoli

**May 2017 expenses paid**

Sue Ciaramicoli was reimbursed for the following from the HHC budget:

* Cellular shades and valances for LRSM office - $197.94
* AASLH 2017-2018 membership - $115.00
* Massachusetts June 12th History Conference - $90.00

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The following were paid from the LRSM budget:

National Grid - $96.57 (5/11)

NStar (Eversource) - $57.28 (5/18)

Verizon - $12.95 (5/18)

Sue submitted a reimbursement request for $76.11. This represents reimbursement for the purchase of supplies for the volunteer who assisted with the painting of the bookcase, scratch cover for barrister bookcase “traded for” from Town Hall, furniture sliders, and CD’s and DVD’s for the Cataloging Project. A motion was made by Barbara Kochon and seconded by Jonathan Chase to reimburse Sue for these expenses. Jonathan asked if there needed to be any further discussion. There being none, and none opposed, the motion passed.

**Flag Day 2017** - Sue is in the process of finalizing plans with Tom Beder for the 8th annual the Flag Day Ceremony to be held at the Little Red Shop Museum on Wednesday, June 14th beginning at 6 p.m. Selectman

Tom Wesley will say a few words, new Hopedale Selectman Brian Keyes; Senator Ryan Fattman, Representative Brian Murry are expected to be in attendance, as well as Chief Tom Daige and Lt. Don Martin. Bonnie DeLongchamp will sing three songs for the ceremony. This year, Hopedale Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts will partner in doing the actual flag ceremony. The retired flag will be presented by Alyssa Pool, recipient of one of the Friends of Historic Hopedale scholarships awarded at Graduation.

**Historical Commission Endorsement for Appointment** – Not having heard back from him, Sue reached out to Jesse Conant, endorsed by the HHC at its May 3rd meeting for appointment to the Historical Commission. Sadly, Sue reported that since that meeting, Jesse decided to list his home for sale; it sold the first day and they will now be moving to Milford on June 28th. In his email, Jesse stated that he is still motivated and dedicated to assisting Sue with the Museum and the Hopedale Historical Commission. He said that, “Once the dust settles on our move, I will be able to really sit down with you and create a finite list of things that I can begin working on. Sometime early in July I am thinking.” Sue will follow-up with Jesse in mid-July.

**Blackstone Heritage Corridor, Inc. (BHC) September GO! Program.** The Museum has sponsored/ participated in this program each year in conjunction with Hopedale’s Day in the Park. First held two years ago, the month-long program is designed to promote unique experiences in the 25 communities of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor and also to encourage new visitors to travel to the area, take in the natural beauty, and learn about the rich history in the region.

Sue reported that she is working with Dave Maloney, BHC, to publicize an “event package” for September 15th/16th to include: a FoHH Coffeehouse on Friday evening, Day in the Park, and at the Museum we will have a day-long visit by weaver Deb Adamczyk, and a Meet the Author/Book Reading/Signing visit with Mary Alice Gruppi, author of the ABC’s of the Blackstone Valley. Sue has also approached the Park Commission to endorse a visit by the ***Tree Bus***, an educational bus from the Scattered Seeds Foundation. This is a hands-on program with displays inside the bus about how trees grow, dating a tree, petrified wood and much, much more. Sue approached Tree Warden Walter Swift to sponsor the bus. He has agreed to do so out of his FY2018 Tree Warden Budget. The cost is $350.

Sue reported that the 4 third grade classes came to the Museum on their “walking field trip,” two classes on May 11th and the other two classes on June 2nd. Sue was able to use the new projector and screen purchased with funds received as part of the BHC Partnership Grant to show the 2007 Little Red Shop Renovation video typically viewed by the students during this annual visit.

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**Dorothy Draper Gannett** (sister of Bill Gannett) **portrait** – The portrait, delivered to Sue at the Town Hall last fall, was donated by Wallace Savory. The portrait is of his late mother-in-law. His wife, Charlotte, predeceased her mother. Sue was recently contacted by Christopher West, one of Dorothy’s sons and the only child from her marriage to Thomas H. West, once the president of the Draper Corporation until his retirement in early 1965. Christopher is the brother of Wally’s late wife Charlotte. He would like to “trade” a larger, more valuable, portrait of his grandmother, Dorothy Draper (daughter of Governor Eben Draper). As a result of the known fact that Christopher contacted Sue, she was also contacted by Bris Gannett (1st cousin to Chris West and son of Bill Gannett), Mike Diorio (Hopedale Foundation and personal advisor to Bill Gannett and his family), and Wally Savory. The portrait is now the property of the Town. Very careful consideration must be given to this situation.

**Volunteers –** The LRSM has some new folks who have volunteered to help with the next phase of the BHC Partnership Grant Cataloging Project.

* **Carol Dandrade** (Uxbridge) – will soon begin photographing artifacts at the Museum
* **Jeff Ellis** (Uxbridge – Hopedale Cable Access) – working with Sue to provide equipment and instruction for a project involving the copying of VHS and oral history audio tapes to digital media.
* **Jeanne Health** (Hopedale) – will soon begin copying VHS and oral history audio tapes to digital media
* **Allison Horrocks** (NPS Park Ranger) and **Emma Schlam** (DOI/VISTA 2017-2018) – have offered to work on documentation for exhibits at the Museum
* **Linda and Tristan Hixon** (Worcester) – have begun scanning historic glass and celluloid negatives from the Bancroft Library and Museum
* **Zach Washburn** (Worcester) – has offered to work on documentation for exhibits at the Museum, may be able to assist with the Museum software, is working with Linda and Tristan Hixon and intends to attend the LHDSC meetings.
* **Karen Pendleton** (Hopedale) – has completed her 90 hours towards Hopedale’s Sr. Tax Relief Program
* **Alyssa Pool** (Hopedale – Class of 2017) – has completed several volunteer hours at the Museum.

Suzanne Buchannan, BHC Volunteer Coordinator, has referred VIP **Dan Smith** (Auburn) as a prospective volunteer for the LRSM.

A motion was made by Kelly Merchant and seconded by Jonathan Chase for the meeting to adjourn at 8: 21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Sue Ciaramicoli, HHC Co-Chair and Recording Secretary