



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

Hopedale Historical Commission

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Suzan L. Ciaramicoli,
Co-Chairman and
Recording Secretary
Jonathan Chase, Co-Chairman
James D. O'Malley, Treasurer
Patrick W. Giles
Kelly J. Merchant
Frederick G. Oldfield, III
Karen L. Pendleton

April 6, 2023

7:00 p.m.

Little Red Shop Museum

12 Hopedale Street, Hopedale Massachusetts

This is an in-person meeting only.

Call to Order and attendance - Jonathan

Minutes from June, September, October, November 2022; January, February, and March 2023 HHC monthly meetings; June and July 2022 HHC Special meetings

Treasurer's Report – Sue C.

- **Expenses**
- **Donations**

Old Business

- **SHRAB Regrant** – update – Sue C. - we need to publish an article about receiving the Roving Archivist and SHRAB Regrant.
- **Collections, Accession + Deaccession policies** - update – Jonathan and Sue C.
 - After a few phone calls, Sue C. was able to obtain contact information from Franklin's Town Administrator's Executive Assistant and Town Clerk for Rowan Lowell, part-time archivist recently hired by the Town of Franklin. Sue reached out to her by phone seeking copies/drafts of the Collections, Accession + Deaccession policies prepared by the previous archivist. Sue followed up with an email. Rowan will search for the documents and consult with their Town Administrator regarding whether deaccession requires action by the town's Town Council, the equivalent to Hopedale's Select Board and/or their Historical Commission. This concept is new to Rowan, being a town-owned museum, so she will need to do some research on these questions. Rowan indicated that the documents we are requesting are only in draft form.
- **Deed-of-Gift** - update – Sue C.
- **Donation of remaining looms** at SSE in our charge to North Carolina Textile Museum - update Sue C.

- Sue C. called and had a discussion with Mac Whatley for an update. Sue provided Mac with copies of a Licensing Agreement and Donation document for the loom donated to the Windham Textile Museum in Willimantic, CT. She also provided him with information from the email from Bill Efron, University of Minnesota, regarding their willingness to relinquish the Draper X-3 loom they would like to work on to the North Carolina Textile Museum so that our “collection” can stay intact as requested by Mac Whatley. He also shared that he did have a conversation with Camille Kalash, the person from Texas, who was also interested in the same loom. Camille plans to visit the North Carolina Museum to meet with Mac and to view the loom that Mac would recommend for Camille’s desire to weave the fabrics he had in mind.
- **Signs at Green Store** – update - Bev Carver
- **NPS – VIP Banner** for pop-up – update – Sue C.
- **BHC Grant - Bike Repair Station, Bike Rack, and signage for LRSM** – still need to reach out to Park Commission - Sue C. – no update
- **Northeast Region NPS historical architect Jed Porter’s site visit report** - update - Sue C.
- **LRSM Wayside Panel Project** – update - Sue C.
- **Sr. Real Estate Tax Credit Volunteer Projects** – Sue C., Bev Carver, and Pat G.
- **CINTAS** – maintenance and inspection of alarm system – Sue C. - no update
- **Historical Commission CD from the State of Massachusetts, Roles, and Responsibilities** - update - Sue C. and Bev Carver
- **Community Preservation Act Committee** – update - Jonathan
- **Blackstone Heritage Corridor Board of Directors** – update - Sue C.
- **BHC VIP Photography Ambassador** – update - Sue C.
- **Meeting with Kevin Rice (NPS) and Meghan Tumey (Archivist) Report** – Sue C. and Bev Carver
- **Eagle Scout Project** - Troop One Hopedale Life Scout Ryan Dupuis – update - Sue C.
- **Historical Books/Papers/Chairs/George Draper marble bust at Town Hall** – update - Sue C. and Bev Carver
Twenty-one (21) banker’s boxes were moved from the 2nd floor of the Town Hall to the Little Red Shop Museum by the Highway Department.

New Business

- **Resignation of James O’Malley**, Treasurer and Member, Hopedale Historical Commission effective immediately - Jonathan and Sue C. notified by email Monday evening, April 3, 2023.
- **Hopedale Town Annual Report Inventory** - Sue C. and Bev Carver
- **Alternate HHC members** - Sue C. spoke to and emailed Jeff Nutting on March 23rd asking if a new bylaw needed to be put to a vote before Town Meeting in order to add alternate members to the Historical Commission. Jeff emailed Hopedale’s Town Counsel, receiving a response from Atty. Brian Riley from KP LAW. No by-law change is necessary. Alternate members would be appointed by the Select Board as is the current process for Historical Commission members. In MGL Chapter 40, Section 8D, it states that “alternate members may be appointed in like manner as provided for in this section not exceeding in number the principal members.”

- **MA Humanities Grant** - Linda Hixon reached out to us to see if we might be interested in this for the LRSM. She suggested an interactive exhibit be created with the Darling desk donated by her cousin Wes Hixon, who knew both the Darlings and Chilsons. Linda said it could possibly include an oral history by Wes, who is 93 years young. It would require 10% funding in funds and 90% funding with volunteer in-kind hours.
- **Mass Humanities 2023 Staffing Recovery Grant** - made possible through a special \$2.5 million Cultural Sector Pandemic Recovery Grant from Mass Cultural Council, the state arts agency. It is a two-year funding opportunity for organizations with budgets of \$500,000 or less and five or fewer full-time employees. The deadline for the Staffing Recovery Application is May 1, 2023. An on-line webinar is scheduled for Thursday, April 6th from noon - 1 p.m. and will also be available on their website after that.
- **Old Colony History Museum, Taunton, MA** - Sue C. visited this museum on April 1st, their first Saturday of the month "scanning day." She had the opportunity to ask some questions of their full-time Curator of Collections, Bronson Michaud. Since 1926, the museum has occupied the historic former Bristol Academy school building. The building was designed in 1852. Its parent organization, the Old Colony Historical Society, was founded on May 4, 1853, making it one of New England's oldest historical societies. This might be a good field trip for Historical Commission members and the LRSM Senior Volunteers. They are open on Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Grafton Historical Society** - Sue C. visited their museum on Sunday, March 12th for a presentation on a historical fiction novel written by local author Ann Davidson and Terry Thibodeaux of Louisiana. It is a story about the deportment of the Acadians from Nova scotia in 1755 and 1758. Sue ended up co-presenting with a personal family history connection. Ann has an interest in presenting at the LRSM at some time. Also, Grafton Historical Society President Nancy Therrien, offered to provide some guidance to us on Past Perfect, inviting us to visit their museum for some insight into this museum software.
- **Massachusetts History Alliance** - they have announced that their 18th Annual Mass History Conference is taking place on Tuesday, June 5, 2023. Sue C. is unlikely to be able to attend. It will be held at the Devens Commons Center in Devens, Massachusetts. The theme of this conference is "Taking History to Town." It is a service conference that supports everyone involved in the local and public history of Massachusetts. There is a registration fee.
- **MHC - State Historic Preservation Plan 2023 - 2031** - the Massachusetts Historical Commission is updating the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Plan and is seeking feedback on the draft of its vision statement, goals, and objectives. The draft is available through their website. This plan is for all preservationists in the Commonwealth. Feedback will be accepted through Monday, April 24th.
- **Internet Archives** - Sue C. reached out to Internet Archives on March 15th inquiring about digitizing the Hopedale Annual Reports. She has a Zoom meeting scheduled with Tim Bigelow, the Northeast Regional Manager, based in Boston, on Thursday, April 6th at 11 a.m.
- **Budget Meeting** - Sue C. attended a joint meeting of the Select Board, School Department, and Finance Committee on March 20th during which a presentation was made about the FY2024 proposed budget shortfalls.

Public Comment

Other items not anticipated in the last 48 hours

Next meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023, 7 p.m.

Adjourn