

## Dennis Historical Commission

**Meeting:** November 18, 2019

**Location:** Nickerson Conference Room, Dennis Town Hall, 685 Route 134, South Dennis, MA 02660

**Members Present:** Diane Rochelle, Bill Collins, Josh Crowell, Sarah Kruger, Bob Poskitt, Tim Scannell and Ken Van Tassell. Leslie Gardner, Director Cape Cod Center for the Arts, was a guest. The Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM with a quorum present. The Minutes of the October 21, 2019, Meeting were approved with grammatical corrections.

### Demolitions:

Demolition applications for a structure at 342 Lower County Road, DP and 30 Pleasant Street, DP were, reviewed independently and signed by the chair with no delay requested.

A lawsuit involving development of 209 Route 28, WD has been filed.

### Old Business:

**CPC 2020 Grant Application, Dennis Historic Assets Survey:** HC will apply for a 2020 CPC grant to update the current MHC Dennis Historic Assets Survey based on a request for proposal that will be sent to qualified archaeologists to determine a cost for this update. There have been 287 assets listed with MHC to date. Currently our historic assets file contains 1,396 assets plus 321 that have been demolished. If this CPC grant application is successfully funded HC can apply for a Mass. Historical Commission Planning Grant to defray up to 50% of the update cost.

**Plymouth 400 Brochure:** the brochure has evolved into a website rather than print promotion.

**Bass River Narrows CPC Application:** funding was approved at October Special Town Meeting. Letter of Agreement is being created. When that is signed a request for bid can be sent out to qualified archaeologists in order to select one to do the survey. A draft request for bid was reviewed, edited and by a motion from Tim Scannell, seconded by Bob Poskitt, unanimously approved.

**West School House Restoration:** the Josiah Dennis Manse Committee CPC Stabilization grant was funded at October Special Town Meeting and awaits signing of a letter of agreement so the project can proceed. The HC previous CPC consulting grant for the project will expire on December 31, 2019. By a motion from Bob Poskitt, seconded by Tim Scannell, it was unanimously approved to request a two-month extension until March 1, 2020 so expenses for modified accessibility can be processed. A motion by Bill Collins, seconded by Sarah Kruger, unanimously approved payment of an invoice BLF&R Architects for revised architectural plans and the AAB variance application fee.

**Endangered Structures:** Bob Poskitt reported that dues renewal invoice from Preservation Massachusetts highlights success of the sale of 401 Route 28, WD (Column's) with a photo. The dues renewal has been paid.

### New Business:

**Cape Playhouse:** Leslie Gardner presented a request for historical information and significance of the bench pews in the Cape Playhouse. In 1838 a renovated meeting house, located on Route 6A at Dennis Village Cemetery, was sold to John Stone & moved across the street. It was owned at one time Josh Crowell's grandfather. It was used as a tin shop, livery, stable & slaughterhouse in several locations ending up behind the Goodspeed store c1900. In 1926 it was flaked, moved & became part of the Cape Playhouse frame. Research by Daniel Chase and the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Union Church Booklet show the meeting house prior to 1838 had box pews not bench pews. It is the consensus of HC that these bench pews are not the original meeting house pews and while they may be historical, they are not of historic significance to the Cape Playhouse.

**Herbicide/Pesticide Management Policy Draft:** after discussion HC unanimously agreed that this policy does not fall under our charge of preserving the history of Dennis and its historic assets. Members are encouraged to make independent comment.

**Commission Information:**

Sarah Kruger gave us photos of a cherry tree, now removed, at 919 Route 6A, Dennis (Richardson Cottage, formerly Sign of the Motor Car) for our historic assets file.

Diane read an email from archaeologist Craig Chartier announcing a new service he offers: lectures and assistance in organizing archaeological records for our town.

Diane reported a visit to the POP launch in Chatham and their preservation efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2020, at 4:00 PM in the Nickerson Conference Room, Dennis Town Hall, 685 Main St., South Dennis, 02660. Respectfully submitted, Diane Rochelle.