

## **sSharon Historical Society Interim Board Meeting, May 11, 2021 - Minutes**

The Board met remotely by Zoom at 7:30 PM on May 6, 2021.

Present: Brad Larson (president), Don Williams (vice president), Elisabeth McGregor (secretary), Carolyn Weeks (treasurer), Doug Southard (archivist), Maria Anderson, Marie Cuneo, Debbie DeBassio, Jimmie Keating, Paul Lauenstein, Shirley Schofield, Meg Winikates

Don called the meeting to order at 7:35, and we briefly reviewed the agenda, comprised of unfinished business from the May 6 meeting.

**Street Art Festival:** In addressing concerns about supervision and safety, Meg said that artists are responsible for the welfare of their own artworks so we wouldn't bear any responsibility, that there would be no access to the building, and that while the art group couldn't specify any particular hours for chalking, any children with adults, so there was no need for our presence. Don agreed to cordon off the farm equipment behind the parking lot in case anyone was tempted to climb on it. Beth offered to tidy up the front rain garden area before the display.

In a related matter, Don inquired about the fate of the kiosk which had been on our lawn but had fallen over due to rot and was now sitting on a trailer in the parking lot. It was agreed that the kiosk, a former boy scout project, was not significantly useful or attractive, and the board authorized Don to move it behind the carriage house for likely eventual disposal.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously voted to include our site in the street art festival.

**Nominating Committee Report and Recommendation:** Maria reported on the Nominating Committee's hard work over the past few days and continued struggles with logistics for the mail-in ballot and remote annual meeting. She recommended Board action to delay the Annual Meeting and election until September. Among the factors:

Maria and Paul described consultation with Marlene Chused, who had been asked to assist with the counting, and with a lawyer friend of Maria's, who brought up flaws in our plan for mailed and emailed ballots. Marlene's chief points were that mail ballots must be requested, not generally circulated, and that voting records should be anonymous, so ballots should never have the voter's name on them as we had designed. The proper protocol is to invite people to request ballots and then have them mail unsigned ballots back in an envelope containing the voter's name and signature, which can then be separated after checking voter eligibility and the anonymous votes recorded.

The capacity of a Zoom meeting is 100 participants, and the Society has over 200 members, so some might be unable to participate. Also connection via Zoom is erratic and difficult to manage for a business meeting, with failed or interrupted connections, inadequate bandwidth causing 'freezing', and some people dependent on phones.

Shirley noted that holding the Annual Meeting in September would give people more time and incentive to pay their 2021-2022 dues.

Debbie expressed concern about people possibly still being unable or unwilling to gather in person in September (citing some 'Golden Oldies' members reluctant to gather for their usual banquet then), and about whether people who lived too far away could still vote. Also concern about the MOU mandate to vote in June. Don and others explained that while the majority of people would no doubt prefer to attend in person, the meeting would still be hybrid so that anyone unable or unwilling to attend physically could still participate and vote remotely online, and that we could still allow people to request a mail-in ballot if needed. Also that most people seem happy with the work of the interim board, that the board can choose the annual meeting date, and that it's not long from June to September (plus it's summer when people tend to go away and pay less attention to things), so there would probably be no objection.

Paul noted that we would need to notify the candidates immediately of the changed election date, and encourage them to remain on the ballot and involved. Maria agreed to contact them. He also noted that tight newsletter deadlines and lack of time to prepare had been part of our problem this time, and we should do better advance planning in the next couple of months, including finalizing the ballot, so that we're fully ready for the September meeting. He suggested that election and meeting prep be on every board agenda until then.

It was moved (Don), seconded (Paul) and unanimously voted to hold a quarterly membership meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup> and delay the Annual Meeting and conduct of the election until a date to be determined in September, with a requirement that the Board come up with a clear plan.

**Newsletter:** Brad will write a revised President's letter, and Don will provide an explanation of the new annual meeting and election plan. The main article will still be Shirley's history of the Society. Don asked for all submissions to the Newsletter by Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup>, and that the draft would be available for Board review with a quick turnaround time before going to press.

**Museum Re-opening:** We settled temporarily for a 'soft opening' since we're not quite ready for public announcement. Don will ensure that the museum is open on Saturday afternoons so that Board members and volunteers can have access. There may be other times for Board member access as well, with the unwritten rule that there should always be at least two members present. We need to do some cleanup, and some temporary signage reflecting that we're open Saturdays for volunteers and that others should arrange for appointment by emailing the Society. We'll base our occupancy rules on the most recent state Covid guidelines, for now aiming for a maximum of 10 on the main floor and a mask requirement. We will revisit the opening status at the next meeting. This was agreed upon by consensus, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth McGregor, Secretary