

## **Sharon Historical Society Board meeting, Sept. 21, 2021 MINUTES (DRAFT)**

The Interim Board held a special meeting on Zoom on Tuesday Sept. 21, 2021 at 7 PM.

Present: Brad Larson (president), Don Williams (vice president), Carolyn Weeks (treasurer), Beth McGregor (secretary), Maria Anderson (nominating Committee chair), Debbie DeBassio, Jimmie Keating, Paul Lauenstein, Shirley Schofield, Doug Southard (Archivist), Meg Winikates

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:05. He reviewed the agenda, offered greetings, expressed gratitude for the Board's good work, and congratulated all who helped present the successful Antique Car Display and Porch Fest concert event on Sept. 12. He expressed a need to own and revamp the Society's website to be more useful, including enabling online payments.

Meg shared a request from the Sharon Racial Equity Alliance to help support a program they would like to offer, probably online, in October or November on Indigenous perspectives on settler-indigenous relations in colonial times. The speaker, Claudia Fox Tree, is a Native American educator and activist. *[Note: Program confirmed and scheduled for Nov. 2, 7 PM]*

**Moved (Meg), seconded (Paul) and voted (9-0-1) to move forward with providing SREA with logistical and promotional support, and to-be-defined financial support, for the program.**

Announcement was also made of an informal talk by Thomas Green, a member of the Ponkapoag band of the Massachusetts tribe in Canton, on Sept. 26 on the lawn of the Zaniewski home on Old Post Road, arranged by Jean Zaniewski, Hana Jenner and Sharon Local History. This led to a brief discussion about ongoing parallel efforts by two local history groups, ending with expressions of hopes they could be brought into closer collaboration, with the Historical Society acknowledging and promoting local history videos created by Hana and Jean Zaniewski, now available on a YouTube channel. Paul suggested putting links to these on the Society's website and Facebook page. Discussion to be continued after the Annual Meeting and elections.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carolyn reported on the rare case of income exceeding expenditures since her monthly report on Sept. 2, primarily from dues payments and the Sept. 12 event income.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Maria led the discussion of plans for the annual meeting and elections. Don reported on the logistics of setup, including safe practices due to Covid. Paul or Maria will send the finalized ballot form to Don for printing; Beth will provide a ballot box. We discussed recruiting volunteers to staff the ballot distribution and counting. Don will confer again with Marlene Chused who is supervising the voting; she may prefer to recruit her own team of vote counters, while Society volunteers will handle ballot distribution. Marlene will also meet with members of the Nominating Committee for a procedural review. At her advice we will try to use non-candidates for any handling of ballots. Don will provide an updated membership list, Beth will be the chief registrar, and Carolyn will take dues payments. We affirmed that people need to pay only the current year's dues in order to be eligible to vote, and that members may join/renew by paying at the meeting. Paul stressed the need for clearly

democratic and transparent procedures, including motions from the floor if requested, so that the election is seen as fair and legitimate. We authorized the Nominating Committee to meet as necessary and work out details of the ballots and elections process.

*[Note: The NomCom met on Sept. 28, unanimously recommended adding size of board to the ballot rather than entertaining likely floor votes on it, and got Board approval via email.]*

**Building and Grounds:** Don reported that there was additional cleanup of the building and grounds, greatly assisted by the AmeriCorps volunteers, and some more pictures were hung downstairs. There remains volunteer cleaning to be done, and we'll probably also need professional cleaning, including carpet shampooing. Jimmy noted that the front door needs refinishing, and Debby that we need a new runner for the front hall. There is also a moisture problem downstairs, and excess items including furniture that are candidates for the Yard Sale.

Beth reported that Amanda Sloan had led her and Jean Z. in a cleanup of the front rain garden. Shirley expressed concern that some plant material from the cleanup was discarded in the back woods on Congregational church property; Beth offered to check it out and remove if needed.

**Sharon Day Oct. 3:** Beth reported that we'll focus on the Pandemic Memories project, inviting people to 'be a part of local history' by sharing their memories of the past year. We'll sell a few items. Don will provide table and chairs; Beth will manage the booth, with help from Carolyn and others; Carolyn will provide cash box with change.

**Yard Sale Oct. 23:** Maria noted that it's important to show we're active and reaching out, plus income is needed. Needs leadership, planning, volunteers, and some restrictions on donations to keep it manageable. Debby would like to sell some excess furniture and other items stored downstairs, hopefully including a closet full of old *Sharon Advocates*. She'd also like Ways and Means to set or clarify the prices on some gift shop items before the sale. We agreed we'd focus on the Yard Sale as soon as we got through dealing with the Annual Meeting.

**Moved (Don), seconded (Maria) and voted (10-0-0) to hold a Yard Sale at the Society on Sat. Oct. 23 (rain date Sun. Oct. 24).**

**Minutes:** Beth noted that we'd run out of time in last meetings to review and approve them.

**Moved (Don), seconded (Maria) and voted (10-0-0) to approve the minutes of the Aug. 5, Aug. 14, and Sept. 2 meetings as submitted.**

Meg recommended that we check out the upcoming NEMA (Nov. 15-19) and AASLH (Oct 12-15) online conferences and consider participating; rates are very affordable and NEMA scholarships are available. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth McGregor, Secretary