Sharon Historical Society Board Meeting Aug 4, 2022 Minutes (draft)

The Sharon Historical Society Board met in hybrid format on Thursday, Aug. 4 at 7 PM

**Present:** Brad Larson (Pres), Don Williams (VP), Beth McGregor (Sec’y), Carolyn Weeks (Treas), Doug Southard (Chief Archivist), Joe Blansfield, Debbie DeBassio, Hana Jenner, Jimmie Keating, Jason Phelps, Shirley Schofield, Ken Zaniewski; also Jean Zaniewski, guest.

Brad called the meeting to order at 7:04 and reviewed the agenda:

Officer reports

Committee reports and recommendations:

 Bylaws and Policies

 Communications—upcoming Heritage Hunter

 Displays

 Activities

 Ways & Means

 Membership

Plans for Sept. 8 Quarterly Meeting

Plans for celebration of 40th anniversary of Society incorporation on Sept. 9. 1982

Information from Shirley on ‘Golden Oldies’ and high school reunions.

**President’s Report**: Brad reported on progress in getting the new website up and running, including problems with setting up email addresses and the donations page. He and Maury are continuing to work on these problems.

**Vice President’s/Building and Grounds Report**: Don reported that we were able to secure two dollies of stackable chairs, two archival cabinets, and two display cases from the High School building about to be demolished. If purchased new, these would have cost about $8000. He offered thanks to Jimmie, Debbie, and others who helped with the arrangements and moving.

Len has diagnosed that the kitchen sink faucet needs replacing due to leakage, at an estimated cost of around $200-250

**Moved (Beth), seconded and voted to approve up to $300 for sink repair.** Jason and Ken offered to help install the new faucet.

**Newsletter:**  Don shared a calendar of upcoming events and noted that we need to stick to a timeline to give adequate notice of the Sept. 8 quarterly meeting. In order to be in the mail by Aug 22, the newsletter should go to the printer on Aug. 15, with articles to Paul by Aug 7. Brad will cover our new capacity for rolling memberships and an update on the new website in his report. Joe will work on an article on Crescent Ridge, although featured speaker Mark Parrish is currently away; Hana will have a Crescent Ridge display ready for the meeting. Beth will write up the proposed bylaw revisions to be discussed and hopefully voted at the meeting. Jean offered to write about the Society’s 40th anniversary. Hana offered to do something about the Bryant store with Shirley’s help, and Shirley will write about the Golden Oldies.

**Activities**: Jason and Hana offered some ideas, and noted they are currently the only members of the committee, but others are welcomed; it will meet roughly once a month. Joe suggested that they create a calendar of meetings and proposed events. One currently planned activity is a tour of the Easton Historical Society, postponed from the spring. Hana also requested permission to host “Creative Circles,” a series of old-fashioned craft evenings, ‘Creative Circles,’ on three September Thursday evenings 7-9 PM, assisted by Maria.

**Moved (Beth) seconded, and voted, to hold three Creative Circles on Sept. 15, 22, and 29, free to members with a donation asked of non-members, and to evaluate at the October meeting.**

Hana reported that the historical book club, which met once, is up in the air and its leader is away. There was discussion of potentially adding some weekday open hours. Jason said he could be an extra onsite body while working remotely. Don suggested that he and Jason might coordinate weekday times, perhaps restoring the old Thursday hours or adding Friday afternoon hours.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Carolyn reviewed her previously circulated monthly report, which showed receipts of 663.22 and disbursements of 1,525.92 There is a large elevator repair due, along with other expenses beyond what can be covered by the checking account. She recommended closing the $8135 Credit Union CD and moving it into the checking account to pay upcoming.

**Moved (Carolyn), seconded and voted to close the Credit Union CD and move the$8135 balance into the checking account**

Noting high utility bills, Debbie asked if there was any news on an energy audit; Mass Save will schedule one. Also, the HVAC system hasn’t been serviced for a long time; Don will contact the company about it. Paul noted that his daughter is getting a 10K rebate for installing a heat pump

**Secretary’s Report**; Beth asked for review and approval of last month’s minutes, and to treat her report on proposed bylaw changes as a separate topic.

**Moved (Debbie), seconded and voted to approve the minutes of the July 7 Board meeting**.

**Archives:** Doug noted that we got rid of old partitions thanks to Don and Hana, and moved document boxes donated by Mare Parker-O’Toole into the closet they had occupied. Judith and Hana are inventorying framed items, storing them in the new flat file for now but will arrange to hang them vertically. Joe is cataloguing artifacts, and will use the other new file. Hana is organizing Dave Nelson’s old newsletter files. Hana reported being impressed with Doug’s organization and all the progress on archives.

Doug said that at some point we need to put our catalogued collections in the cloud, via Past Perfect on the Web or a similar system, and asked that sometime in the Fall we put it on our agenda to deal with this.

**Bylaws and Policies**: Beth reviewed the previously circulated proposal of the Bylaws and Policies Committee to put provisional adjustments to the bylaws up for vote at the September membership meeting (1) allowing for changes in election process and board terms, so that 1/3 of the Board is elected each year for a renewable three-year term, with an interim adjustment in June 2022 setting up 1, 2 and 3 year renewable terms to achieve the desired rotation; (2) allowing the Board to set differential dues rates for individual members and families with approval of the membership, and (3) allowing for bylaw amendments at any regular membership meeting provided due notice is given.

One change was offered, removing the membership approval of dues and leaving them to the discretion of the Board.

**Moved (Brad), seconded and voted to present the bylaw amendments to the September meeting.** Beth will write up the proposed changes and rationale for them for the newsletter.

**Displays**: Hana and Joe discussed decluttering, rearranging, and lighting of display space, and can coordinate with B&G about arrangements. Joe noted that displays fall into three buckets: permanent, rotating, and ad hoc (topical for a particular meeting or event, like the Crescent Ridge display. The committee plans to meet once a month, next on Sept. 2.

**Ways and Means**: Doug reported that the Veterans appeal letter has gone out to relevant organizations, and they may follow up with additional appeals to meet the matching requirement of the Veterans grant. The labels have been printed and the annual town-wide appeal letter is ready to go out as soon as the new website is live. He asked that helpers at the Aug. 28 Summer Seasonal market sign up for shifts with Hana. Hana thanked Shirley for volunteering all day.

A flea market is scheduled for Oct. 8 and a Fall seasonal market for Oct 30.

Joe requested permission to make a merchandise purchase of 24 Sharon Historical Society logo baseball caps and polo shirts for $984; he has orders in hand for $410.90, and we’ll offer the remainder (cost $572.30) for sale in the gift shop. Please pay pre-orders to the Society.

**Moved (Doug), seconded and voted to authorize Joe to make the purchase.**

**Membership:** Don reported that we have gained a few members, Wild Apricot works well for entering data, and rolling dues will be easy, with WA generating automatic notice of renewals due by email and/or letter. Right now we are still operating with redundancy, entering members in both the old and new systems. Paul suggested that it would be great to put the renewal date on mailing labels. The membership committee plans to meet again soon.

**Quarterly Meeting arrangements**: Don thinks we can have an in-person meeting of 40 downstairs at the museum, plus have a monitor on first floor with Zoom connection for those who prefer for accessibility reasons, and remote Zoom connection for those far away. Joe reported that Mark Parrish is all set and has a draft powerpoint production he’s updating. We have a good projector and will make full use of the building, with a live meeting downstairs, zoom upstairs connection plus a Crescent Ridge display and refreshments upstairs. The elevator is finally functioning so the downstairs is fully accessible. Don feels that the ventilation is fine downstairs with the vents open; Maria suggested we might add an air purifier.

**Celebration of the 40th anniversary of the incorporation of the Society**: Don suggested that we have a sheet cake and an honoring of the Society’s founders as part of the quarterly meeting. This could be supplemented with a social gathering related to the history of Old Post Road on Friday at the Zaniewski home. Beth concurred, and Jean said she was happy to do both, noting that it’s important to have social events to attract and welcome new members, especially newer and younger Sharon residents who may not have been attracted before to our meetings.

**History of Sharon High Reunions and the “Golden Oldies”**: Shirley provided some background on the tradition. The first reunion was in the 1950s, and at the end Doris Newton, who’d been a teacher there, said it’s up to you to continue. So they did it again in the 1980s, held an unusually big one in 1997, and another in the early 2000s. At that point they decided to have an annual Golden Oldies luncheon for those who attended Sharon High 50 or more years ago. This year’s luncheon will be held on Friday, Sept 9, including the classes of 1946 to 1972, at the Chateau in Norton. People are invited to come to the museum, which will be open 3-5 on Friday, after the luncheon. On Saturday, Sept. 10th, there will be a walking tour of Rock Ridge Cemetery 10 am-noon, free and open to all. The Golden Oldies have expressed gratitude to the Society for allowing use of the museum for meetings and have been generous in book purchases and donations to the Society. Brad expressed his pleasure in the natural synergy of the Golden Oldies and the Historical Society.

**Moved (Don), seconded and voted to celebrate the 40th anniversary at the Sept. 8 meeting, including a sheet cake and recognition of the founders, and to post all events including the Zaniewski social and Saturday cemetery walk.** All events are voluntary, to choose among them and have fun. There is no cost to the Society for the Friday event, and only the cost of the sheet cake for the Thursday celebration at the meeting.

Joe reminded people to stop by the museum and sign the big Crescent Ridge birthday card.

**Moved (Jimmie), seconded, and voted to adjourn at 9:05 PM**

Next meeting Thursday, Sept. 1

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth McGregor, Secretary