

Shrewsbury Historic District Commission Minutes  
Richard D. Carney Municipal Office Building  
Old Selectman's Room  
January 23, 2020

Members Present: Chairman, John Campbell, Keith Baldinger, Nancy Burnett, Kristine Gustafson, Don Hutchins, Melanie Petrucci, Allyn Taylor

Guests: Gail Aslanian, Bernie Cahill, Patrick Convery, Lisa Cossette, Julie Holstrom, Kristen Las, Melanie McGee, Jason Molina, Dina Nichols, Richard Ricker

Call to order at 4:05 pm by Chairman John Campbell

1. Discussion and Presentation of Proposed Community Preservation Act (CPA) by Jason Molina and Melanie McGee. 176 towns have adopted CPA to date. Funding can be used for open space, recreation, historical preservation and affordable housing. The Shrewsbury initiative is requesting 1%. It will be introduced at town meeting for consideration on the Nov. ballot. Neighboring towns that have adopted CPA include Grafton, Northborough and West Boylston. A question and answer period followed.

2. Update and proposed collaboration with the Historical Commission by Gail Aslanian. Gail presented a proposal about a Historic House Plaque Program. (All houses and buildings in the historic district have bronze plaques from the National Historic Register.) The Historic Homes Plaques Program would commission wooden plaques with original owner's name and date. The Historical Commission would begin this program after the historical inventory is completed by the consultant. A second project proposed by the Historical Commission is a Museum in the Streets Program with large plaques throughout town at historically significant places. These programs are in the initial planning phases and do not yet have funding.

3. The minutes of the October 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Motion for approval (Nancy) Second (Melanie) Approved 7-0.

4. Act on Certificates of Appropriateness

a. Shrewsbury Historical Society submitted COA for replacement railings at the east entrance. Motion for approval (Allyn) Second (Melanie) Approved 7-0.

5. Ward Monument and Gates- Tabled until next meeting.

6. Final report and comments on the successful Yuletide Market (Dec. 7) and Rededication of Civil War Monument (Oct. 26) recently held in the Historic District. Both events were successful. Estimated attendance at Yuletide Market was 2,500. The Massachusetts House of Representatives presented a certificate of recognition to the Shrewsbury Historic District Commission in recognition of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War monument.

7. Discussion of updated HDC brochure and website link- Tabled until next meeting.

8. Report on Wayfinding Committee and Town Center Association- Tabled until next meeting.

9. Bernie Cahill made a comprehensive presentation on the Shrewsbury Town Center Proposed Zoning Changes: Concepts and Overview. Members of the HDC, SDC and other invited guests participated in the discussions. The zoning of HDC locations will remain unchanged. Other parts of the town center would be impacted. Input by HDC will be critical in maintaining the character of a New England town center. RFP for Beal Reuse and Town Center Zoning proposals will work in tandem.

10. Other business/adjourn

a. Next meetings: Chairperson will email dates for meetings in March, May and June.

b. Motion to adjourn (Allyn) Second (Nancy) Approved 7-0.

Adjourned at 6:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kristine Gustafson  
Secretary

