

Shrewsbury Historic District Commission

March 16, 2023 7:00 PM Shrewsbury Town Hall

Attendees: Whitney Andrews, Kelly Barner, Keith Baldinger, Kris Gustafson, Shannon Nolley, Melanie Petrucci

Absent: Allyn Taylor

Guests: Skip Burnett and Chris Williams, First Congregational Church

1. Call to Order at 7:01 pm.

2. Minutes from the January 16, 2023 meeting were approved with a unanimous vote.

3. Certificate of Appropriateness - First Congregational Church

While painting, the church encountered some badly damaged vertical boards on the north end of the church. They need to re-side with the same material as the current clapboards (board and batten). In question is a window that opens into an occupied attic with no floor, part of the section of the building added in 1956. Covering the window with siding will reduce current and potential future maintenance challenges without altering the authentic historic appearance of the church. The painting will start early summer, but the siding will start first.

The COA was unanimously approved by all present Commission members.

4. Review of Community Advocate article referencing Northborough's Historic Preservation Plan, should we consider a similar plan - Kris Gustafson

Towns like Northborough and Arlington have comprehensive historic preservation plans. This may be an opportunity to leverage grant funding to work with consultants to craft a similar plan. Keith Baldinger recommended speaking with the planning department about the idea.

Melanie Petrucci will reach out to the Northborough Historic District Commission to see about bringing in a member to discuss this with us at our June meeting, and inviting the Shrewsbury Historical Society and the Shrewsbury Town Planner to join us.

5. Old Business

- Update on Historic District Commission (HDC) Town Center Walking Tour: PocketSights was created as a vendor, PO processed this week. The subcommittee has been working on the location-specific copy and Melanie brought a copy of the current drafts for all members to review. Once the facts are finalized, one member can read through for consistent tone and convention. Slocumb should have a *b* at the end even though multiple variants are used around town. All of the locations have been assigned owners and will be complete (in first draft) for next meeting.

- CPA Application Discussion for the Historic Gravestones Update: The Select Board reviewed the warrant on March 14th. Next the Finance Committee must review it.

6. Other Business

- Job Cushing foot stone relocated to the 1830 Schoolhouse on loan with the headstone.
- Historic gravestone program at Mountain View Cemetery made historic photos accessible and available.
- Public forum with the Shrewsbury Preservation Committee April 3rd at 7pm to receive community input on community preservation plan.
- April 5th public info meeting for cemetery expansion towards Prospect Park.

7. Next meeting date: Thursday, April 20, 2023

8. Adjourn at 8:09pm.

Respectfully submitted
Kelly Barner, Secretary