

TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
Historical Commission Meeting
Richard R. Carney Municipal Office Building
100 Maple Ave. Shrewsbury, MA

Thursday, April 7, 2022 - 7:00 PM

MINUTES

Present: Ms. Melissa McKenna, Vice-Chair, Ms. Gail Aslanian, Secretary, Mr. David Chiampa, Commissioner, Ms. Erin Howard, Commissioner, Mr. Kevin Samara, Commissioner , Mr. Gerald Sullivan, Guest

Preliminaries:

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

1. **Approve Minutes of March 3, 2022.** A motion was moved and seconded to approve the minutes and were unanimously approved into record.

Old Business:

1.**Community Preservation Update:** Continuation of development of the Preservation Plan by the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) with project applications expected to be available Fall 2022 and funding released Spring of 2023.

2. **Historic Inventory Update:** There were some mistakes noticed in the Inventory submitted. Gerry will address those. Melissa will divide the inventory list so that each commissioner has a similar number of properties to complete narratives for inventory completion. Emphasis to be not only on narrative but any physical characteristics such as foundation, roof, window placement , chimneys and other structures as well as clear pictures of buildings.

3. **Cemetery Restoration:** David reported that the product tested is working well. The need to protect the gravestones from further damage is great so perhaps fencing or roping of those most vulnerable plots would slow the damage from mowers. Parks and Rec and Cemetery Commission have not been available to meet and discuss options and plans moving forward.

New Business:

1. **Review of MACRIS entries:** As inventoried properties are finished and added to MACRIS it is necessary to edit what is already posted. There are properties on MACRIS that no longer exist or are applicable.

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2. Joint Meeting with Historic District Commission: In a recent discussion with Melanie Petrucci , chair of the HDC, it was agreed that the two Commissions should occasionally have a joint meeting and share project and research information.

Other Business:

1. **Allen Barns:** Gail, Kate Doyle, (Allen descendant) and Martha Gach, Conservation Commission, met with Town Planner Bernie Cahil, Assistant Town Manager Kristen Las and Selectman John Samia pertaining to Town acquisition of the 5.5 acres and two barns of the former Allen Farm located on Centech North that Northbridge Development Corp. wishes to gift to the town. It was indicated by Ms. Las that the town was not interested in the acquisition stating logistics of transfers and acceptance by Town Meeting. Mr. Cahil indicated that it was a great opportunity to partner in a CPA project and Mr. Samia was open to viewing the property and hearing development ideas. An on-site meeting was scheduled for April 26, 2022 at 8:00 am.

2. **Meeting with Town Manager:** Gail met with Town Manager Kevin Mizikar the afternoon of April 7, 2022 to discuss Historical Commission concerns regarding inventory completion, appointments to the Commission and other issues which have come before the Commission. It was a very productive meeting and Mr. Mizikar was very open to remedies. Authorization was requested for the town to send a questionnaire to all homes listed on the Commissions inventory list. A sample questionnaire was given and awaiting approval. Further follow-up will take place.

Next scheduled meeting will be on May 5, 2022

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Aslanian
Secretary