

Shrewsbury Historic District Commission

April 20, 2023 7:00 PM Shrewsbury Town Hall

Attendees: Kelly Barner, Keith Baldinger, Kris Gustafson, Shannon Nolley, Melanie Petrucci, Allyn Taylor

Absent: Whitney Andrews

Guest: Gail Aslanian, Community Preservation Committee

1. Call to Order at 7:00 pm.

2. Minutes from the March 16, 2023 meeting were approved (with one amendment) with a unanimous vote.

3. Old Business

- Update on Historic District Commission Town Center Walking Tour: Melanie Petrucci brought the working draft of the walking tour copy for everyone on the Historic District Commission to review. Kris Gustafson provided edits on the copy for the 1830 Brick School that will be added to the master version – she will send them to Melanie Petrucci digitally. The decision was made not to include notes about the Underground Railroad based on the lack of definite evidence. The sub-committee also confirmed that Samuel (-el) is the correct spelling for Samuel Haven.
- Update on Status of application for CPA funding for the Historic Gravestones in Mountain View Cemetery as it moves closer to Town Meeting - Kris Gustafson and Keith Baldinger updated the Commission on the fact that the review process continues. Melanie Petrucci and Allyn Taylor will be present at Town Meeting in case any questions come up about the application.
- REMINDER: The Shrewsbury Historical Society will present "Stories in Stone: Historic Gravestones at Mt. View Cemetery" by Linda Davis and Martha Thomas on Wednesday, April 26, 2023 at 7 p.m. at the Historical Society. Digitized images owned by the Shrewsbury Historical Society will be shared and the session will be recorded and replayed/made available on demand for anyone who is unable to attend the live event. The information shared at this event speaks to the 'why' behind the effort to preserve Shrewsbury's historic gravestones.

4. New Business

- Gail Aslanian from the Community Preservation Committee solicited feedback on community needs to update the CPA plan as well as the application process.
  - Scheduling – a longer application process (or a process that does not end on September 1) would be better. Also, making sure the timing is purposefully

coordinated with the town's budget cycle would help groups know which funding mechanisms are available to them.

- Information duplication – Most of the information on the eligibility form can also be used on the application, but for projects that are not deemed eligible, a lot of work has been done that would not have been needed. Consider shortening the form to determine eligibility.
- The CPC is also open to ideas for non-historical town projects that may be eligible.
- Feedback from Kris Gustafson
  - Page 17 – Add a note that Shrewsbury's Historic district is listed on the National Historic Register
  - (Thomas Walter) Ward Homestead – be careful about wording it so that there is no confusion with the Artemas Ward House
  - Thomas Harrington House – there is a typo
  - Page 19 – The fact that there is no planning document to guide historic preservation in Shrewsbury is the most important statement in this section.
- Gail will be back at the June HDC meeting along with other guests (including Norm Corbin from Northborough)

#### 5. Other Business

- Correspondence: Contact information provided for Jennifer Doherty from the Massachusetts Historical Commission re: an opportunity to review and comment on a draft vision statement, goals, and objectives.

6. Next meeting date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

7. Adjourn at 8:03pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Kelly Barner, Secretary