

South Hadley MA Historical Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of June 30, 2022, held at the South Hadley Public Library

Present: Tony Judge, Vice-Chair; Emelie Lyszchyn, Member; Peter Scotto, Member; Robert (Bob) Judge, Member

Absent: Frank DeToma, Clerk; Jose Vasquez, Chair

Vice-Chair Gerald (Tony) Judge called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Tony Judge opened the meeting by suggesting that the Historical Commission (“*HistComm*” below) should discuss further the subject of the *HistComm* proposing to the town that the town adopt a demolition delay bylaw.

In the absence of Clerk DeToma, Bob Judge offered to take the minutes of the meeting.

Bob Judge said that he had just been appointed to the Historic District Study Committee. Bob said that he thinks that the town should adopt a local historic district before it adopts a demolition delay bylaw. He said that after a local historic district is approved by the town, the new district commission that would be formed might decide to adopt a version of a demolition delay bylaw to apply to the new district. He said if the district adopts a delay bylaw that is successful, it might provide a model that the Town might be more inclined to adopt town wide than it would be to initially adopt such a town wide bylaw.

Tony Judge said the *HistComm* needs to schedule its visit to the Sycamores, which was discussed at a recent *HistComm* meeting attended by representatives of the Sycamores Committee. *HistComm* members discussed potential dates for such a visit, and Tony said that he would contact Starr Florio of the Sycamores Committee about a date for the visit.

Tony reported that Leo Labonte has continued to post unique and interesting information about South Hadley’s history on the Facebook group “**South Hadley & Granby Community Historical Tidbits**” ([South Hadley & Granby Community Historical Tidbits Group | Facebook](#)). Tony said that Mr. Labonte has recently moved to South Hadley, and that he hopes that will make it easier for Leo to continue his excellent research. A *HistComm* member asked if the Commission should have its own Facebook page. Bob Judge said that he thinks that before creating a Facebook page, the *HistComm* should increase its presence on the Town website and use the information that it uses to do that as the basis for the information for a Facebook group. Bob offered to prepare a draft of text about the Historical Commission to request that the Town post on its website at [South Hadley, MA - Official Website | Official Website](#). Emelie offered to help with the preparation of the material for the website, and Bob said that he would send her the draft that he prepares.

Tony Judge said that he would like the *HistComm* to continue to support the work of the South Hadley Historical Society. Bob Judge agreed and said that he had visited the Society’s Old Firehouse Museum again when it was open on the previous Sunday, June 26. Bob said there was good attendance. He said that Diane Laroche has been opening the museum on the last Sunday of each month, from 1:30 to 4 p.m., and he encouraged *HistComm* members to visit the museum when it is next open. Diane has been posting notices of the museum’s schedule on [South Hadley & Granby Community Historical Tidbits Group | Facebook](#) and Bob encouraged members to join that Facebook group to see those notices, and the other postings in the group.

Bob Judge shared with the *HistComm* a story about a possible reuse of an historic church in Holyoke, as published in the Daily Hampshire Gazette at [Planners hear pitch for reuse of historic church in Holyoke \(gazettenet.com\)](#)

Tony Judge said that he was not aware of any other subjects that the *HistComm* should discuss at the meeting. He suggested that the *HistComm* meet next on July 28, 2022, which was approved by consensus. Hearing no objection, Bob Judge made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Peter Scotto seconded the motion, which was approved by a unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robert Judge, Member