

South Hadley MA Historical Commission

DRAFT Minutes of Meeting of March 23, 2023, held at the South Hadley Public Library

Present: Tony Judge, Vice-Chair; Frank DeToma, Clerk, Bob Judge, Member

Absent: Emelie Lyszchyn, Member; Peter Scotto, Member

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

Tony welcomed Leo Labonte to the meeting. The Selectboard has appointed Mr. Labonte to the Historical Commission (*HistComm*), and Leo said he was hoping to be sworn in soon.

Bob Judge introduced Mount Holyoke College Anthropology Professor Joshua Roth. Bob said that the South Hadley Historical Society worked with Professor Roth from 2006 to 2008 on a successful oral history project about the old South Hadley High School. Professor Roth has now offered to have his students work again with South Hadley residents on a project relevant to the students' Anthropology class. He said that Bob Judge and he had discussed the idea of a project about South Hadley Falls and the interest of Falls residents in creating a South Hadley Falls Historical District.

Professor Roth asked the commissioners questions about South Hadley Falls, its history, and the South Hadley Falls Neighborhood Association. He told the commissioners what kinds of approaches might be relevant for his Anthropology students, and the advantages and disadvantages of particular approaches.

The Commissioners expressed enthusiasm about working with Prof. Ross and his students. Professor Roth offered to meet with the *HistComm* again when he has more information about how many students will be enrolling in his Research Methods class for the Fall of 2023. The Commissioners thanked Prof. Roth for his attendance and told him that they would look forward to working with him and his students in the Fall.

The Commissioners then welcomed Judy Dobosh to discuss the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC). Judy described the "matrix" that the MPIC is using to keep track of the tasks assigned to town boards and committees, including the *HistComm*. Judy asked the *HistComm* to provide the MPIC with the status of its "Goal Actions," as listed on the matrix form, by April 1. The Commissioners thanked Judy for attending and told her that they would send an updated matrix to her.

The Commissioners next considered the request from Robert Comeau for the *HistComm* to sponsor the historical tours that Mr. Comeau has organized for 2023, as he has done in previous years, information about which had been received by Commissioners on March 11. The *HistComm* voted unanimously to sponsor the tours and the commissioners asked Bob Judge to so inform Mr. Comeau, which he said he would do.

The Commissioners next considered the request from Diane Laroche to meet with the *HistComm* in April about an application for placement of the Old Firehouse Museum onto the Massachusetts Register of Historic Places. The Commissioner asked Bob Judge to invite Diane to meet with them in April, and Bob said he would do so.

The Commissioners then considered a reorganization of the *HistComm* through the election of a new Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk. Frank DeToma nominated Tony Judge for Chair. Tony declined the nomination. Frank then nominated Bob Judge for Chair. There were no other nominations for Chair. The Commissioners voted unanimously to make Bob the new Chair of the *HistComm*.

Bob Judge then nominated Frank DeToma for Vice-Chair. There were no other nominations for Vice-Chair. The Commissioners voted unanimously to make Frank the new Vice-Chair of the *HistComm*.

Bob Judge then nominated Emelie Lyszchyn to be Clerk. There were no other nominations for Clerk. The Commissioners voted unanimously to make Emelie the new Clerk of the *HistComm*.

The Commissioners then considered the letter from Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC) dated February 17, 2023, about 17 Highland Drive, South Hadley, information about which had been received by commissioners on March 11. Bob Judge moved that the *HistComm* inform the PVPC that it had no comment about the subject. The commissioners approved the motion unanimously and asked Bob to so inform the PVPC, which he said he would do.

At 7:40 pm, the Commissioners voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Judge, Chair