

**Cohasset Historical Commission
Minutes of Meeting
September 21, 2021
Zoom Meeting**

Members Present: Jacqueline Dormitzer, Suzanne Wadsworth, Mark St. Onge, Noel Collins, Julia Gleason

Members Absent: Merle Brown, Megan Elder

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Reorganization. Jackie was reappointed chair and Megan, secretary.

National Register Listing Update. The Mass. Historical Commission replied to Jackie's submission of the application for eligibility of the Cohasset Savings Bank and asked for additional text and photos providing details of the renovation work, as well as historic and current floor plans. They also asked for historic interior photos and for identification of any features retained from the building's use by the Odd Fellows. Jackie researched the files at the Historical Society and the South Shore Art Center, which used the 2nd floor immediately after the Odd Fellows left it. She found two useful photos, an original blueprint of the basement, and an 1898 newspaper article that described the new building. She also took photos of the 2nd floor and asked Dennis Roth, the architect of the 2nd floor renovation, for any plans he might have of the space. Suzy Wadsworth said she would search for more plans by the original architect, Edward Nichols. Jackie will send Cohasset Commission members the updated application including new photos before resubmitting it to the Mass. Commission.

Captains' Walk Signage Update. Jackie has been working on text and design for the 10 signs and investigating types of panels, frames, and costs for the project. Two of the sign makers she contacted also provide graphic design services. Noel said he was against the project. He felt there would be lack of interest in the signs, that most of the structures no longer exist, and that the project would not be worth the expense, among other things. The other Commission members pointed out that the signs describe the historic importance of the harbor as a fishing and shipbuilding center and that the purpose of the Historical Commission is to preserve Cohasset's historical heritage. There was also brief discussion on what to do about the demolition of historic places. Mark commented that demolition delay bylaws are often ineffective and that many homeowners resent being told what they can and cannot do to their property. Publicizing the significance of the building or site and promoting the idea of restoring or repurposing was suggested as a possible approach. Mark mentioned how costly restoration often is for the homeowner, as he is currently working on restoring his own historic home.

Historical Commission Brochure Update. Suzy, Julia, and Megan have been developing an outline for the brochure and plans for writing a narrative on such topics as the mission of the Historical Commission, its activities, and issues such as protecting historic sites from rising sea levels. They have done extensive research for the project and are making progress.

Report of Liaison to MPIC. Julia reported that the Master Plan Implementation Committee is focused on the Elm Street Corridor and other elements of the Master Plan. Generally, however, they support our efforts on the Captains' Walk. Julia also said that the Harbor Committee will safeguard the large anchor displayed at the Cohasset Harbor Inn site.

Ideas for 2021/22. Julia was interested in the possible discovery of artefacts and other items of archeological interest when the Cohasset Harbor Inn site is excavated for the new condo project. Noel was interested in preserving one of the signs at the Inn. The Commission authorized him to acquire it.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacqueline Dormitzer
Secretary pro tem