

**APPROVED MINUTES**  
**Barnstable Historical Commission**  
**Barnstable Town Hall, 367 Main Street, Hyannis**  
**Selectmen's Conference Room**  
**May 21, 2019**

BARNSTABLE  
TOWN CLERK

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| Nancy Clark, Chair                          | Present           |
| Nancy Shoemaker, Vice Chair                 | Present           |
| Marilyn Fifield, Clerk                      | Present at 4:08pm |
| George Jessop                               | Present           |
| Elizabeth Mumford                           | Present           |
| Cheryl Powell                               | Present           |
| Frances Park                                | Present           |
| Jessica Rapp Grasseti, Town Council Liaison | Absent            |
| Paul Wackrow, Planning & Development Staff  | Present           |

Chair, Nancy Clark called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

*Acting under the provisions of the Code of the Town of Barnstable, ss 112-1 through 112-7, the Historical Commission held its usual monthly meeting, with no demolition applications for review.*

**Old Business**

- **Lothrop Hill Cemetery:** Cheryl Powell reported on headstone restoration planning, and David Schaffer spoke of meeting with Dan St. Pierre of the Cemetery Division to inquire about the cleaning of stones. He said Mr. St. Pierre has worked with Lapell in Southington, Connecticut, although there are also closer resources. Mr. Schaffer added that he spent a great deal of time at the ancient cemetery in Centerville, involving Down Cape Engineering in generating a map that he submitted to Jim Benoit to see if it can be incorporated with the Town GIS System. He noted the condition of the stones (passing around photos of stones in Centerville), hoping they can be addressed, as well. He said he has been to the Yarmouth Port Ancient Cemetery, and he feels the care there is first rate. One issue mentioned concerning the gravestones in Centerville, Marstons Mills & Lothrop Hill was the lichen that makes the stones illegible. Mr. Schaffer concluded by saying that he is waiting for feedback from Jim Benoit.

Marilyn Fifield asked Mr. Schaffer if he had located a listing of the headstones, and he replied that he had received it.

David Martin of the Marstons Mills Historical Society said he is interested in the preservation of the Marstons Mills Cemetery, including its hearse house.

Nancy Shoemaker shared suggestions on individuals who may be able to assist, including Laurel Gable, a researcher in restoration of headstones, and Jonathan Athel, and she hoped for a training seminar for volunteers. Chair Clark noted that the Marstons Mills Historical Society should be included in any workshop that may occur.

Cost and funding were discussed, and Paul Wackrow suggested that CPA funds could be a source of funding.

Cheryl Powell favored joining with other groups pursuing cemetery restoration, and Nancy Shoemaker reminded that \$1,000 is available from the Barnstable Historical Society, given as a grant from the Lothrop Family Foundation.

Organizations and individuals that might help with the project were discussed.

Bob Frazee suggested contacting the DPW first, and he agreed to speak with DPW on how to proceed.

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- **Cape Playhouse and Cape Cinema Building, 820 Main Street, Dennis** - Review and possible vote to determine the significance of this property to the community in order to determine its eligibility for Community Preservation Act funding.
    - **Represented by:** Leslie Gardner, President of Cape Cod Center for Arts that originated in 2005. She said the Playhouse is about to begin its 93<sup>rd</sup> year, and she is working on preserving and repairing it, along with the Cape Cinema envelope and roof, noting that the Cape Playhouse was originally an 1810 barn and slaughterhouse, and the Cape Cinema was a church. The theatre was started because there was no air conditioning in New York City and the theatres would shut down in the summer. Shortly thereafter, the Cape Cinema opened, and in 1939 it was the site of the first screening of *The Wizard of Oz*. She said the Cape Playhouse is the only professional actor's equity on the Cape. And she reported that the board has determined that they need to secure the roof of the Cinema to protect its acclaimed Rockwell Kent ceiling mural, adding that the Playhouse, box office, gift shop, barn shop, Nickerson studio and office on the 22-acre property all need attention. She explained that they entertain 30,000 patrons per year and received a \$30,000 Mass. Cultural grant about two years ago to fund two studies: 1) for sustainability of the organization, and 2) stability of the structures. And she reported that Dennis considered the complex historically significant.
    - Chair Clark noted that the Dennis Historical Commission is in support of this project.
    - Nancy Shoemaker questioned awarding Barnstable Community Preservation funding for a project in another town.
    - Marilyn Fifield explained that the Community Preservation Act requires historic property to be on the State Register of Historic Places to qualify for Community Preservation funding or the Historical Commission can vote that the property is significant to the community. She also noted that the Town Council recently voted to award Barnstable Community Preservation funding for housing in Dennis intended for adults with autism.
    - Elizabeth Mumford clarified that the Historical Commission is not voting on supporting the funding, but just voting on the significance of the property.
    - Frances Parks said she is opposed to awarding Barnstable Community Preservation funds for a project in another town.
    - Cheryl Powell asked if this property historic or not.
    - Frances Parks felt the building is significant, but repeated that she is not in favor of using Town of Barnstable funds for a project in another town.
    - Ms. Gardner pointed out that this property serves many Cape residents, adding that the Massachusetts Historical Commission suggested that they request funding from neighboring Cape towns.
    - Nancy Shoemaker considered the property historically significant, but she emphasized that she did not approve of the use of Barnstable Community Preservation funding for a project in another town.
    - Marilyn Fifield advised that the Historical Commission should only vote on the property's significance to the community, and she suggested that Ms. Gardner pursue National Register nomination and listing in order to qualify for State Historical Commission funding available for such properties.
    - Nancy Shoemaker moved, seconded by Cheryl Powell, that the Barnstable Historical Commission finds that the Cape Playhouse and Cape Cinema buildings, 820 Main Street, Dennis, are significant to this town and Cape Cod, but that the Barnstable Historical Commission is not endorsing the use of Barnstable Community Preservation funding for this project, and this determination relates solely to significance. So voted: Aye, unanimous

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  - **Vote:** Letter from Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound seeking support for political pursuit of designation of Nantucket Sound as a National Historic Landmark
    - Paul Wackrow noted that this request excludes the use of wires.
    - Pursuit of National Historic Landmark designation through political means rather than the usual qualifying process was considered a unique approach.

- Frances Parks moved, seconded by Cheryl Powell, to support the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound's letter to Senator Markey, Senator Warren, and Congressman Bill Keating, permitting the Alliance to include this Commission as a supporter, but excluding any effect on navigational aids. So voted: Aye, unanimous.

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- **2019 Survey & Planning Grant** application update

Paul Wackrow reported that he would be going to the State Historical Commission next week to begin discussing the contracting process, adding that it should take about three months. He said the Town will issue an RFP, the State will review the final proposals, and surveying will take place over the winter and will need to wrap up by June 2020. He noted that the Town Council would be reviewing acceptance of the State grant at its June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Chair Clark reported a request from the Marstons Mills Historical Society to recognize 611 Santuit-Newtown Road.

Clark suggested adding a link to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards on the Historical Commission's website. She then asked about an application form for preservation recognition from the Town, saying that she would like to proceed with setting up an award and seeking nominations from civic associations and historical societies, and she asked George Jessop and Elizabeth Mumford to work on the award.

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- **Historical Commissioners Roundtable:** Update of meeting hosted by Cape Cod Commission – see summary from Sarah Korjeff.

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- **Community Preservation Committee Update**

- Marilyn Fifield noted that CPC is in need of a professional historic preservation consultant, and she added that the Annual Meeting is coming up, when comments on the CPC Handbook will be welcome. Paul Wackrow suggested emailing State Historical Commission's MassHistPres list for suggestions.

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- Discussion of upcoming historical events open to the public.
    - Shoemaker itemized local events.

### Approval of Minutes - April 16, 2019

Marilyn Fifield moved, seconded by Cheryl Powell, to approve the April 16, 2019, minutes as edited.  
So voted: aye, unanimous

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**Next meetings:** June 18, 2019 & July 16, 2019

**With no further business before this Commission, a motion duly made by Nancy Shoemaker and seconded by Cheryl Powell to adjourn the meeting at 5:23pm received unanimous approval.**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Erin K. Logan, Recording Secretary  
and edited by Commission Clerk Marilyn Fifield

Exhibit A