



LANCASTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stanley B. Starr, Jr. called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to Order at 6:00 P.M. in the Dexter Room, located in the Thayer Memorial Building, 717 Main Street, Lancaster, Massachusetts. Present were Selectmen Walter F. Sendrowski, Mark A. Grasso, Jr., Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco and Executive Assistant Kathleen Rocco.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

6:00 P.M. Opportunity for public to address their concerns, make comment and offer suggestions on operations or programs, except personnel matters. Complaints or criticism directed at staff, volunteers, or other officials shall not be permitted.

1. Jay Moody of Seven Bridge Road member of the Ad Hoc Reuse Town Buildings Committee and Jon Lord of Nicholas Drive, came before the Board seeking direction regarding the Town Buildings. Town Administrator Pacheco noted that at the Annual Town Meeting there was some confusion on the Article regarding the Sale or Lease of the Town Hall. Mr. Pacheco noted that at the next Annual Town Meeting, the Warrant Article should be very specific regarding leasing a Town Building.

Chairman Starr stated that the first step is Annual Town Meeting in May, which will give clear direction and then the Re-use Town Building Committee can move forward.

2. John Schumacher-Hardy of South Lancaster, came before the Board of Selectmen to speak about the naming of the meeting room located in the Prescott Building. Mr. Schumacher-Hardy read his letter into the minutes. (*See attached*)

III. SCHEDULED APPEARANCES & PUBLIC HEARING

6:00 P.M. MRPC Community Development Block Grant – Public Hearing

Selectman Sendrowski read the following legal notice into the minutes.

The Lancaster Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Dexter Room, located in the Thayer Memorial Library, 717 Main Street, Lancaster 01523 to receive comment from the public on Lancaster's application for the FY18 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Applications can be for up to \$800,000 for eligible activities as follows: housing rehabilitation, infrastructure improvements, public facilities, public services, and planning services. Interested persons and organizations are encouraged to attend, and will have the opportunity to comment and be heard on the proposed

*application. Reasonable accommodation will be attempted upon written request to the Selectmen's Office prior to the meeting. The meeting room is handicapped accessible.
By: Lancaster Board of Selectmen*

Selectman Sendrowski moved to open the public hearing, Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0.

Present: Noreen Piazza, Planning Director and Brian Keating, MRPC Planning Team

Mr. Brian Keating, representative from MRPC gave an overview to the Board of Selectmen regarding CDBG FY2018 Application.

- MRPC is recommending that the Town apply for a Housing Rehabilitation Project. The CDBG team that the Town also apply for a planning grant to conduct a Comprehensive Community Needs Assessment.
- Benefit to low-moderate income person <80% of AMI. In Lancaster for a family of four this is \$68,000.
- Lancaster is eligible to apply up to \$800,000. This is good for about 15 units of Housing rehab.
- Single communities cannot receive more than \$1.3 million in any 2 consecutive years.
- Applications are due March 2nd
- Two Public Hearings are required. (One before submitting application, one during grant term.
- At least one public forum required to discuss Community Development Strategy. A Community Forum was conducted on January 18th
- CDS need to be revised from seven page requirement to three pages.
- A cover page will need to be signed by the Board of Selectmen once the budget has been finalized.
- The Board of Selectmen will need to designate an Environmental Certifying Officer.

Selectman Sendrowski moved to close the public hearing, Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

Selectman Sendrowski moved to support the MRPC Community Development Block Grant Application for FY2018. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

IV. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1) Land Auction

The Land Auction has been scheduled for February 13, at 11am in the Town Hall Auditorium. Bidder Registration will start at 10:30am. The Zekos group has a dedicated website to the auction which will be linked to the Town's webpage.

<http://www.zekosgroup.com/lancastertownauction2018.html> John

2) MMRHS Update

The Minuteman Building Committee has a 1 minute YouTube video showing the construction progress for the building. It will be linked on the Town's webpage for residents to see.

3) OML Training

There is an Open Meeting Law Training on April 24th at the Leominster Public Library from 5:30-7:30pm. The training is being conducted by the Attorney General's Office. Departments are making their respective boards and committees aware of the training.

4) Thayer Memorial Park Bid

Town Administrator Pacheco stated we are currently finalizing the bid specification for Thayer Memorial Park Phase 1. He noted that he expects to advertise the project the week of the 12th and have the project awarded and contracted by April 1. The project is contingent on bids coming in within the budgeted amount the Town has available.

5) Complete Streets bid

Mr. Pacheco reported that he and the Planning Director are currently working on the bid specification for the complete streets project. At this time they are looking to bid the project towards the end of February with a mid-April award date and a June construction start. The project will replace 1,100 linear feet of sidewalk on Main Street/Bartol Drive to the bridge as well as to Neck Road @ Centerbridge. The existing crosswalks will be replaced with more visible, better located crosswalks. He has requested 1 new streetlight to accommodate the project after they received resident feedback at the public meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Selectman Sendrowski moved to approve and accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2018. Chairman Starr Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, and Stanley B. Starr, Jr., vote Aye. 2-0

VI. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS -

Appointments

Selectman Sendrowski moved to appoint Mark Renczkowski, 642 Mill St. Ext. to the Recreation Committee, term to expire 6/30/19. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

VII. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, AND POLICY

1. Review and take action on Designation of Environment Certifying Officer for the FY 18 Lancaster Community Development Block Grant Project.

Selectman Grasso moved to appoint Orlando Pacheco as the Designation of Environment Certifying Officer for the FY18 Lancaster Development Block Grant Project. Selectman Sendrowski Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

2. Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) request to name the new meeting/reference room on the second floor in the Prescott Building to Lancaster's longtime volunteer Phyllis A. Farnsworth. (Agenda item was tabled from the BOS Meeting of January 16, 2018)

Chairman Starr spoke about the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) request regarding the naming of the Meeting Room, and noted that the name should be all encompassing such as the *Nashaway Meeting Room* or *1653 Meeting Room*.

Selectman Sendrowski stated that no matter who they pick, it will hurt someone's feelings. He is supportive of naming the meeting room to *1653 Meeting Room*.

Selectman Grasso noted that he too is supportive of the naming of the meeting room to *1653 Meeting Room*.

Selectman Sendrowski moved to adopt the name *1653 Meeting Room* in the Prescott Building. Selectman Grasso seconded.

Discussion:

Joan Richards, member of the Historical Commission requested that the meeting room be named the Phyllis Farnsworth Room, due to Mrs. Farnsworth's significant time she put into the Historical Commission.

Heather Lennon, 294 Nichols Drive, Chair of the Historical Commission, stated she too is in strong support in naming the multipurpose meeting room, in the newly renovated Prescott Building, to honor the late Mrs. Phyllis Farnsworth. Mrs. Lennon noted that Phyllis Farnsworth did extensive research on numerous aspects of Lancaster's history, in order to make available to the public. She concluded that the amazing depth and breadth of Phyllis Farnsworth's efforts in laying a solid foundation in Lancaster's history, makes Mrs. Farnsworth the most deserving in naming the meeting room after her.

Selectman Grasso stated that the meeting room does not necessarily translate to Mrs. Farnsworth's efforts and perhaps the archival room or the exhibit room would be more fitting.

John Schumacher-Hardy stated that if the Board of Selectmen are looking for naming the room more general, *1653* is a little too generic, however *Nashaway*, which was the original name of the plantation/settlement, has a more colorful and warmer feel for this room.

Selectman Sendrowski moved to reconsider changing the naming of meeting room to *Nashaway*. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

3. Discussion - Town Offices moving into Prescott Building.

Town Administrator Pacheco wanted to discuss with the Board the upcoming move of the Town Offices to the Prescott Building. He noted that the offices will start moving this Friday, February 9th, however, the building systems will not be up and running by Monday, February 12th and would like to close the Town Offices to the public on that day. The Offices will reopen on Tuesday February 13th for business. The Board was in agreement of Mr. Pacheco's request.

It was further noted that the Town Offices will move to the Prescott first and get settled in before the Historical Commission. Town Administrator Pacheco asked Historical Commission Chair, Heather Lennon to provide his office a list of the inventory she plans to have moved over to the Prescott, as the Insurance Company will need to review.

Further discussion on recalibration of the Lancaster Community Center and Town Hall.

VIII. LICENSES AND PERMITS

1. Review and take action on Earth Product Renewal License – Fort Pond LLC

Selectman Sendrowski moved to approve the Earth Product Renewal License for Fort Pond, LLC. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

2. Review and take action on Earth Product Renewal License – P.J. Keating - **TABLED**

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Nashaway Meeting Room located on second floor in the Prescott Building.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Starr read a letter from the Board of Selectmen to formally and publicly commend the Chief Edwin H. Burgwinkel for his rapid, professional, and highly effective response to events on January 27, 2018. The actions of Chief Burgwinkel, the Lancaster Police Department and the Massachusetts State Police prevented the loss of life and limited the damage to public and private property.

Chief Burgwinkel demonstrated the leadership and command of the event which assured the safety of the residents in the community.

Working with our public safety personnel, including the Police, Fire, EMS, along with the State Police units; Chief Burgwinkel orchestrated an outcome that prevented a very dangerous and high profile situation from further escalating and produced an outcome in which no public safety personnel, or members of the public, were harmed.

The Board of Selectmen is deeply appreciative of the professional manner and the actions taken and commend Chief Burgwinkel for his outstanding command skills and professionalism during a most difficult of time.


XI. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, on Motion by Selectman Sendrowski, seconded by Selectman Grasso, it was unanimously voted the Board of Selectmen adjourned at 7:29 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Rocco
Executive Assistant



Walter F. Sendrowski, Clerk
Approved and accepted: 3/19/18

Greetings Lancaster Select Board Members:

24 Jan 2018

Recently, the Lancaster Board of Selectmen was asked to consider a request to name a meeting and reference room within the Prescott Building in honor of former Lancaster Historical Commission chair Phyllis Farnsworth (1925-2012). While Mrs. Farnsworth certainly made noteworthy contributions to the Town of Lancaster, the Lancaster Select Board decided to table this topic until additional names could be added for further consideration. This was not only a wise decision, but a fair one too in light of the many additional past citizens likewise worthy of such an honor and deserving equal consideration than just this one individual.

Therefore, I desire to submit additional names for fuller consideration and to briefly review reasons why they too should be considered for this possible honor. But before sharing my list of suggested candidates for this possible special commemoration opportunity, please allow me to express a disclaimer and explanation as to the criteria utilized for my choices.

It would be impossible to include everyone past or present who may be worthy of such an honor, however some do rise to the top more readily than others. Naturally, being one person, I am limited in my knowledge of all past citizens of Lancaster, hence I no doubt have inadvertently overlooked some additional candidates who should likewise be considered; and for this I apologize in advance.

In making my selections I considered several variables: 1) Deceased former residents; 2) preference to native-born past residents and/or past residents who lived most, if not all, of their life in town; 3) individuals who were prominent local historical figures or contributed in some manner to Lancaster's history and/or its promotion and preservation; 4) individuals who have not already been similarly honored elsewhere in town [such as Mary (White) Rowlandson and Luther Burbank each being commemorated with a school, or Bill "Lee" Farnsworth being commemorated with a bridge, Thayer family members, Nathaniel Hawkins, Jr. being honored with a hall named after him at First Parish Church, Unitarian, etc.].

Thank you for your review and consideration of these additional candidates too.

Sincerely,
John C. Schumacher-Hardy
(as citizen, not as library trustee)
PO Box 1697
South Lancaster, MA 01561-1687

Here following is my list. I have listed these potential candidates in chronological order by their birth year. However, my personal choice by order of preference is: 1) Henry Stedman Nourse, 2) Herbert H. Hosmer, Jr., and 3) Virginia (Johnson) Collins and 4) Marion (Fuller) Safford.

Thank you for your kind consideration of these additional possible names too:

- 1) Henry Stedman Nourse (1831-1903) – Mr. Nourse was a prominent native to Lancaster who descended from some of Lancaster's earliest families and was a state-wide renowned historian who contributed extensive research and preservation for Lancaster and its history. Mr. Nourse graduated from Harvard College in 1853 and worked as a teacher and then civil engineer until serving under the Union Army during the Civil War as adjunct and captain in the 55th Illinois Regiment (having participated in some 40 battles). Among his many civic offices and services to Lancaster, Worcester County and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, he served as area representative in the General Court in 1883 and then as area senator in the General Court from 1885-86. At the time of his death he was an active and long-time member of the State Board of Charities and the Free Public Libraries Commission. Mr. Nourse wrote numerous important books and articles concerning Lancaster's history, local genealogy and local history of other towns; some of which are still available in reprint copies today and remain of great use to genealogists and historians. He assembled an extensive collection of Lancaster and local daughter towns' documents, photographs, pamphlets and additional research information into invaluable, quality custom-made scrapbooks which comprise many helpful reference items concerning Lancaster's town and local history which are found nowhere else. Among his many impressive fraternal connections, Mr. Nourse was an active member of the American Antiquarian Society, the Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Massachusetts Military Historical Society. He died the same year that the Prescott Building was erected: 1903.
- 2) Marian (Fuller) Safford (1870-1960) – Although she was born in Maryland, Mrs. Safford's father was born here, her grandfather John Fuller moved here from Roxbury in the early 19th century, and she lived here for the majority of her life. Her husband was Arthur L. Safford (a Lancaster native whose grandmother descended from Lancaster's early Houghton and Sawyer families). He owned and operated the large general store that used to be on Main St. where the post office and neighboring buildings now stand. Mrs. Fuller was well known and liked within Lancaster. She was a member of the

Lancaster Current Topics Club and participated in various church and charity organizations. She had a keen interest in Lancaster's history and wrote a popular book called "The Story of Colonial Lancaster" which was published in 1937 and used as a regular textbook within Lancaster public schools for many years. She had a second book on Lancaster history too which unfortunately never was finished, but most of which Thayer Memorial Library and Lancaster Historical Commission have in manuscript form.

- 3) Herbert Henry Hosmer, Jr. (1913-1995) – Mr. Hosmer was born in the old Edmund Sears House on Main St. in South Lancaster and resided within a block radius of his birthplace his entire life, only living away part time and briefly while in private high school and college and during several early teaching stints. He descended from some of Lancaster's earliest and prominent families, including Founder John Prescott. He was considered Lancaster's unofficial Town Historian for decades, having vast knowledge of our Town and its long history. He was the first chairman and organizer of the Lancaster Historical Commission when it was begun c1966 and remained an active member for most of the time up until his death on Thanksgiving Day in 1995. He established and maintained the Toy Cupboard Theatre (puppetry) and the John Greene Chandler museum which operated in South Lancaster for over 55 years. From 1959 until his retirement in 1978, he taught 4th grade for Lancaster Public Schools, with his classroom having been in the Prescott Building. He was active in community affairs and served also for a while as a Trustee of Lancaster Public Library (now called Thayer Memorial Library). He conducted helpful and important research regarding local history. He wrote articles on local history and organized annual local history bus tours for grade school students every school year, which were well received. He was an active and contributing member of the American Antiquarian Society.
- 4) Virginia (Johnson) Collins (1923-2016) – Mrs. Collins was a lifelong Lancaster resident who was extremely active in Lancaster town affairs. She graduated as Valedictorian of her class in 1940 at the Lancaster High School (which operated in the very same building now being repurposed as Lancaster's Prescott Building). She began working for the Town in 1959 and continued working for the Town for some thirty years! She served as Executive Assistant to public schools' Superintendent Frank Mitchell for much of this career. In 1973 she became the first female member of Lancaster's Board of Selectmen, serving her full three-year term she also had the honor of being the first women in the United States to have been

invited to officially and formally review the troops at nearby Fort Devens. She was active in Lancaster's Evangelical Congregational Church, being a life-long member and teaching adult Sunday School classes there for many years, as well as serving as secretary to the pastor, member of the Women's Association, and a lifetime Deaconess. She was an active member of the Lancaster Current Topics Club too. She loved Lancaster, its long history and made some impressive history here of her own.

"Honorable Mention" (runners up; again arranged chronologically by birth year):

1 - Col. Francis Washburn (1838-1865) – native Lancaster resident who served and died in the Civil War; came from a prominent local family; buried in North Village Cemetery.

2 - Alice Greene Chandler (1851-1935) - moved to Lancaster from Roxbury, MA when she was 16 years old and her parents retired here; descended from prominent Lancaster Chandler family of the 19th century; a long-time librarian, director and trustee for Lancaster Public Library (now Thayer Memorial Library), also served also on state library boards, and was instrumental in developing library professional services in town and within the Commonwealth.

3 – John C. L. Clark (1871-19__) – a native of Harvard, MA who became long-time Lancaster Town Clerk in early 20th century, he was also secretary of the Lancaster Cemetery Committee for many years; Mr. Clark promoted local history research and published some related articles.

4 – Esther (Luvrey) MacDonald (1887-1960) – moved here in her youth, served several decades as Lancaster Town Clerk and as a frequent correspondent reporter to the Clinton Item for Lancaster news; she and her son, Duncan MacDonald, donated her husband James MacDonald's impressive glass-plate negative photograph collection of 1900 to 1938 Lancaster views to the Lancaster Historical Commission.

5 – Frederick Lewis "Fred" Weis, Th. D. (1895-1966) – though not a native, Dr. Weiss was a prominent resident in Lancaster from c1929 until 1951, having served as the minister of the First Parish Church, Unitarian. He was a renowned genealogist and history researcher who conducted extensive research on the early Lancaster families, several of which he descended from. He founded the "Society Descendants of Colonial Clergy" (of which he was also Historian), and was active

within many other genealogical and historical organizations, including: being elected a Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists in 1951, being a member of the American Antiquarian Society, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. He served as Trustee to the Lancaster Public Library (now called Thayer Memorial Library) and served on the local Selective Service Board during World War II (himself having been in the Navy briefly during World War I). He authored over half a dozen books, including a scholarly one on Lancaster Founder John Prescott (for which he traveled to England to conduct thorough research).

6 – George A. Black (1909-2003) – native, life-long resident of Lancaster who long worked for the Town of Lancaster with the Highway, Public Works and Cemetery departments. Mr. Black was one of Lancaster's World War II Veterans and had been very active in the local veteran's organization for many years. (Possibly a volunteer firefighter too?)

7 – John "Jack" Sonia (1935-2016) – native, life-long resident who long worked for the Town of Lancaster with the Highway, Public Works and Cemetery departments of Lancaster (including Superintendent); served Lancaster also as volunteer firefighter, EMT (also a search and rescue scuba diver), Water Commissioner, Civil Defense Director, and Select Board Member.

8 – Wilburt H. "Bill" Locke (1918-2009) – "born in Rutland ... and raised in Lancaster. He was a graduate of Lancaster High School. / For 43 years before his retirement, he worked for the Town of Lancaster as the Superintendent of the Water Department. He dedicated his life to the Town, serving also as its Fire Chief and Forest Warden. / He was a member and long-time deacon of the Evangelical Congregational Church." (obituary) Mr. Locke was instrumental in helping locate and establish Lancaster's public water supply.

9 – Patrick H. "Pat" Ryder (1918-1987) – worked for Lancaster some 34 years, serving on the Police Department, including many years as Police Chief.

10 – Roger Hart, Sr. (1928-2013) – a native, life-long resident of Lancaster who had long worked for the Town, including serving as Superintendent of the Highway Department, Town Assessor, Firefighter and Chief of the Lancaster Fire Department; Mr. Hart had a strong affection for Lancaster and its long history. He collected historical Lancaster materials such as post cards, documents, books, photographs, etc. (some of which he donated to the Lancaster Historical Commission prior to his death).