

Annual Report – Lancaster Historical Commission

The members were: Michael Sczerzen, Chair, Liz Colley, Vice Chair, Joy Peach, Sally Rouleau, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson and Associate Members: Catherine Chaisson and Joan Richards

The Commission members thanks the following persons who have adopted a historic marker in town and take responsibility for the area surrounding the markers:

- Jean and James Watson - Lover's Lane Old Elm Tree on Centerbridge Road
- Liz and Tom Colley - Ward Park water trough and intersection
- Annette Morris for past years and now Cemetery Dept. - Water trough, North Village -
- Michael Sczerzen and Joan Richards - Lane's Crossing Water Trough
- Joanne Foster and Alexandra Turner

Anyone interested in adopting a marker, please contact the Historical Commission at LancasterHistoricalCommission@yahoo.com.

The Historical Commission office space was moved in June to 94 Main Street (the Philbin Building) with the assistance of the Fire Department who used the move for training for a disaster drill. The office space in the Town Hall was required for the Town Finance Director. Thanks to the dedication of Historical Commission members and two senior tax abatement workers, the task of reorganizing and inventorying in our new office space has begun.

The Lancaster Historical Commission continues to do requested genealogy/research, Appointments can be scheduled for interested individuals to do onsite research. Copies of the books, The Captive and The Lancastrian Towns are available for sale.

The Lancaster Historical Commission voted approval of providing storage space a loan from the Lancaster Historical Society for their collections. The Commission was informed that the Historical Society has voted to pay for two slate-type markers to be placed at Old the Common and Middle Cemeteries as a gift to the Town.

The Lancaster Historical Commission supported the efforts regarding:

- Prescott Building - The Planning Director, Noreen Piazza, and her team continue work on, restore, and refurbish this historical building with grant money. Mark Schryver, who is an architect, prepared a floor plan that the Historical Commission approved, which was submitted to the Board of Selectmen at their meeting. The Town Administrator compiled an RFP to hire an architect for the project. Mark Schryver volunteered to give input regarding the selection of the architect, and the Historical Commission has been informed that the first floor of the Prescott Building will be its future space.

- First Church of Christ Lancaster – The Commission wrote a letter of support in the church’s efforts to obtain a Massachusetts Historical Commission Preservation Fund Grant. The church provided the Commission with a copy of their preservation report compiled during the work on the steeple.
- Conservation Commission – The Historical Commission supported Conservation Commission member Cara Sanford on the wording for the Open Space Report by:
 1. Providing a timeline regarding changing uses of Lancaster’s open spaces.
 2. Providing information about shade trees in Lancaster
- Michael Sczerzen, Lancaster Historical Chairman – The Commission supported his effort to coordinate with Regonini-Zoll Memorials in Clinton for the repair and attachment of a bronze marker on the water trough at Lane’s Crossing.

Changes in Town:

- The Aaron Jones house c. 1800 at 282 Ponakin Road, presently owned by the Parrow family, was severely damaged by a gas explosion.

Accessions:

Thayer, Keiko -- Photos of three generations of John E. Thayer

Sczerzen, Michael -- A captivity narrative book

Stirewalt, Mark – A hinge and powder horn fragment from Lane Cabinet Factory site

Peach, Joy -- Booklets pertaining to Herbert Hosmer

Morris, Annette (through a cousin & J. Watson) – Clippings/ booklets pertaining to Lancaster Current Topics Club

Sczerzen, Michael -- Mounted photo of JE. Thayer family group on horseback

Chambers, Marilyn -- Jean Watson’s Evangelical Congregational Church book and church commemorative plate

Rouleau, Sally -- Women’s vintage clothing from late 19th century: 4 black jackets and 2 dresses

-- Women’s vintage clothing from late 19th century: 16 items

-- Two volumes **History of Worcester County** published by J.W. Lewis & Co.

-- 11 misc. books (some relating to Worcester, Lancaster, Clinton)

Burk, Thomas of Clinton, MA -- Framed 8” x 10” color photo of John Spencer, the official “clock winder” for the 1st Church of Christ, Unitarian in Lancaster.

Paszko, Henry & Ann – two granite posts now located at Lane’s Crossing