

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
October 30, 2017**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, October 30, 2017 at 6:30 pm at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Sczerzen, and Karen Silverthorn

**ABSENT:** Jay Moody, Mark Schryver, Jean Watson,

**CALL TO ORDER:** Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

**TOWN GREEN BUILDING RE-USE PLANNING:**

LHC members expressed an interest in inviting members of the Building Re-use Committee to attend the next LHC meeting to share ideas and discuss plans for the re-use of the Memorial School and the 1908 Town Hall on the Town Green Campus. They will be contacted and invited.

**ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:**

No report given. Scout Leader John Aurin is expected to report at a later time.

**TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):** No report given.

**HISTORIC CEMETERIES INITIATIVE:**

Heather Lennon reported that another tree has fallen in the Middle Cemetery breaking and damaging the grave markers below. This will be reported to DPW Superintendent Kevin Bartlett so it can be removed and the debris cleared away. At the Special Town Meeting in October, \$10,000.00 was approved exclusively for tree removal in our historic cemeteries.

Lancaster resident Sue Billings, who is working under the Senior Tax Abatement Program, is transcribing information on burials in Eastwood Cemetery from index cards to a computer spreadsheet format. Cemetery. She agreed to share a copy of her finished work with the LHC to keep on file in the office; and at some point, it is hoped that the stones can be photographed as well.

Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has not responded regarding our National Register submission for all seven historic cemeteries. It has been several months since the forms were sent and it is hoped they can be approved as a "batch".

**PRESERVATION GRANT OPPORTUNITY:**

Information has been received from the Massachusetts State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) for a new round of funding for a matching grants to preserve objects, sites, and document collections that are significant to the history and experiences of military veterans in the Commonwealth. Joan Richards made a motion that the LHC seek to obtain a grant for \$15,000 and that a letter of intent be submitted for consideration. The motion was seconded by Karen Silverthorn and it carried unanimously. Heather Lennon and Michael Sczerzen will prepare the letter of intent which needs to be submitted by November 15, 2017 and the full application submitted by January 15, 2018. The LHC discussed the fact that there is no special memorial standing anywhere in Lancaster in tribute to our Revolutionary War veterans and that might be a good focus for grant money.

**PRESCOTT BUILDING UPDATE:**

Michael Sczerzen reported that the building rehabilitation still seems to be on track. National Grid has caused financial overruns due to their delays in providing a much needed transformer which has finally arrived. An accounting of the added costs to the project due to these delays are being drawn up. The next meeting of the ADHOC committee is scheduled for November 15, 2017 at 12 noon in the Town Hall Auditorium.

LHC members discussed moving forward with a letter to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) recommending that the multi-purpose meeting room on the second floor near the LHC office in the Prescott Building be named for Phyllis Farnsworth who served 29 years on the LHC and was chairperson for 23 years. Since the Bolton Road Bridge has been named for her husband Bill Farnsworth, LHC members felt this honor should be specifically for Mrs. Farnsworth.

**LHC COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN: (Through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):**

Heather Lennon reported that modifications to this plan suggested by “Roving Archivist” Rachel Onuf will be incorporated at a later time.

**HALLOWEEN ON THE GREEN:**

LHC members will have a table in one of the horse sheds at the First Church of Christ off the Town Green from 5 to 8 pm on October 31, 2017. Candy has been donated by members and Joy Peach has crocheted over fifty ghosts ornaments to hand out to the children.

**HISTORIC SIGN REBURBISHMENT:**

LHC members again discussed the possibility of having Minuteman High School vocational students or MCI inmates assist in refurbishing signs by sandblasting old paint from historic signs in Lancaster. Jay Moody previously mentioned that Minuteman has new equipment for sandblasting. Further, Joan Richards indicated that she will research how the historic signs put up in 1930 by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts might be refurbished. The LHC would also like to have signage for the cemeteries fabricated and installed. This matter will all be pursued.

**PONAKIN AND ATHERTON BRIDGES:**

Heather Lennon reported that she has spoken to Town Planner Noreen Piazza regarding possible inclusion of these two Nationally Registered and extremely rare pony truss bridges as pedestrian walkways in the town’s developing trails system. This matter will be pursued.

**FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET:** No report given.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The minutes of September 25, 2017 were read, corrected, and approved as corrected on a motion made by Joy Peach, seconded by Heather Lennon. The vote carried unanimously.

**LHC MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:**

Jean Watson, a full member of the LHC for many years, has recently sent a letter stating that, for personal reasons, she now wishes to be considered for appointment as an associate member. LHC members voted to recommend to the BOS that this request granted. Current associate member Jay Moody has indicated that he is willing to step up as a full member. This matter will be pursued.

**ACCESSIONS:** Heather Lennon showed members a work of “Memorial Stitchery” done in memory of Lancaster resident John Hawks (deceased in 1847) which has been donated to the LHC. A letter of appreciation will be sent to donor Joyce Antila Phipps of Plainfield, NJ.

**ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:**

Joy Peach made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 pm. Heather Lennon seconded the motion, Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous. The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, November 27, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting