

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
February 26, 2018

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, February 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the LHC office at 131 Main Street in South Lancaster.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Moody, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

GUESTS: Ashley Driscoll (potential Associate Member)

CALL TO ORDER: Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Chairperson Lennon asked to change the order of agenda items. Joan Richards made a motion to do this, Amy Brown seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of January 29, 2018 meeting were read. Karen Silverthorn made a motion to accept them as corrected. Amy Brown seconded the motion, a vote was taken and it carried unanimously. It will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting.

APPROVAL OF 2017 LHC REPORT FOR ANNUAL LANCASTER TOWN REPORT:

Copies of the draft which had previously been sent to members were handed out again. Joan Richards moved that the report be approved and Michael Sczerzen seconded the motion. The vote was taken and carried unanimously. The report will be sent to the Town Clerk as she has requested.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Joan Richards reported that an email dated February 26, 2018 at 2:43 pm was received through LHC's official email stating the Board of Selectmen (BOS) were having a working meeting on Thursday, March 1st with the LHC. Members, hearing of this for the first time, responded by sending an e-mail stating that the notice was too short and requested a re-scheduling.

PRESCOTT BUILDING:

1. Heather Lennon reported that there had been a number of issues related to the LHC's move into the Prescott Building: (Most involving a lack of communication.)
First, it was found out, *indirectly*, that the LHC would not be moved at the same time the other town departments were to be moved in.
Second, there was a last minute "switch" of the multi-purpose meeting room location to the archives room and then, back again. The "switching back" was found out about *indirectly*.
Third, confusion exists regarding why an order for a new reception desk cannot be placed.
Fourth, a firm moving out date from the two rented locations has not yet been established even though there seems no further reason for delay with new quarters available.

Lancaster Boy Scouts, Troop #1 Leader Aurin and several parents helped the LHC move some of their wire racks and packed boxes into the Prescott Building on Thursday, February 22, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. A list of those who were involved is as follows:

John Aurin and Bodie Aurin
Tim Castner and Jonathan Castner
Jill Doherty and Nate Doherty
Ian McGregor
Julie Nash and Billy Nash
Stephanie Stanton and Theo Stanton

Also, Henry and Ann Paszko, Stephanie Stanton, and Michael Sczerzen volunteered their trucks for use in moving items.

The move went smoothly but Tim Castner was told that the Boys Scouts were causing a problem with using the elevator and they should, instead, use the stairs. When W.B. Mason workers (who were there at the same time) were asked if there was a problem, they said there was no inconvenience

3. On February 19, 2018 Heather Lennon sent letters of thanks and appreciation on behalf of the LHC to Operations Project Manager Mary Bulso and Architects Lynne Spencer and Arthur Vogt for their dedication to staying the course toward the completion of this very long project.

ATHERTON & PONAKIN BRIDGES:

Heather Lennon reported that Noreen Piazza, of the Community Development and Planning office, has been in communication with Michigan bridge expert Nels Raynor. He has provided her with an approximately \$6,000.00 quote to come to Lancaster to do an on-site structural analysis of the two bridges. This is currently on hold until funds are available to do this. Nothing else can be done with the bridges until an analysis is completed.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: (through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Heather Lennon reported that we have been selected to receive a \$12,500.00 grant to erect a Revolutionary War memorial marker. The location of the marker and its design are in the planning stages. Once Town Administrator (TA) Pacheco has received further information from SHRAB and gets a financial account set up, we can proceed. Henry Richter, of the local American Legion, will be consulted for input on the marker location.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES: Currently, this project is on hold.

Heather Lennon reported that she will contact Kevin Bartlett, DPW Supt. soon. Volunteer Ashley Driscoll said she will be in touch with Marcia Jakubowicz to follow-up with "Project Footstone" as soon as the winter weather subsides. Michael Sczerzen mentioned that the tick population is out in full force, so anyone walking in the cemeteries should take all the necessary precautions.

TOWN GREEN BUILDING RE-USE PLANNING:

No report given.

ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

Lancaster Troop #1 Scout Leader, John Aurin, and Eagle Scout Nolan Stocker are working on site maintenance plans. An e-mail has been sent to the Conservation Commission Chairman, Ken Raposa, informing him of the project.

TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):

Heather Lennon reported that the TA recently sent an e-mail to George Franz at the First Church to see if there has been any progress on the creation of this document.

HISTORIC SIGN REFURBISHMENT:

No report given.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET:

Joan Richards reported that an e-mail has been sent to Finance Director Gariepy asking for information relating to FY18 budgets expenditures. The LHC may need to put a warrant article before Annual Town Meeting in May, 2018 for our moving costs and furniture.

ABNER POLLARD HOUSE REHABILITATION ON OLD COMMON ROAD

No report given.

ACCESSIONS:

None reported.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Karen Silverthorn reported that Lancaster's forthcoming "Hidden Treasure," in cooperation with Freedom's Way (FW), will be a show on Lancaster-born (in 1868) astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. It is scheduled for May 6, 2018 at 2 pm at the Thayer Memorial Library (TML). Information for the Fitchburg showing of "Silent Sky" (about Leavitt) is scheduled for some time in March. More information will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:

Joan Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. It was seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. The location is yet to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting