

MINUTES  
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
June 27, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, June 27 2016 at 131 Main Street at the Historical Commission Office, South Lancaster, MA.

**Members Present:**

Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, Karen Silverthorn, Jean Watson, and Joan Richards, Associate Member

Absent: Garrett Sheahan

**Call to Order:**

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the May 23, 2016, were corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Joy Peach and seconded by Karen Silverthorn.

**Prescott Building:**

Michael Sczerzen reported on the Ad Hoc Committee held on Monday, June 20, 2016. He said that he understood the design plans to be 98% complete. Bidding will most likely begin by mid-July.

The town website will show the final plans but they may be so small that they cannot be downloaded in a usable form. The storm windows will be replaced on the exterior. Michael Sczerzen mentioned that some other changes were being brought forward that may go beyond the budget figures approved at town meeting. Mark Schryver pointed out that since Mary Bulso is the "Operations Project Manager", she should be on top of bid approvals and making sure the work is completed correctly and remains within budgetary guidelines.

Heather Lennon reported that Board of Selectmen (BOS) member Mark Grasso informed her that the reason the other two BOS members voted to have the Town Administrator moved into the Prescott Building was so he could supervise Town Hall employees more effectively. It was mentioned again that members of the Historical Commission were left out of the April walkthrough of the building even though they are major "stake-holders".

**Seven Bridge Road:**

Michael Sczerzen reported that the National Grid Power Company did not appear for the June 14<sup>th</sup> public hearing and the Conservation Commission, approved by majority, a continuance for June 28<sup>th</sup>. LHC members will continue to research information pertaining to the "Scenic Road" designation and our opposition to removing the trees along the roadside.

**131 Main Street:**

The Hometown Bank employee, who also functions as a building manager, had the water damage repaired to the plumbing and the ceiling. The office will be open in June, July, and August y appointment only.

**State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):**

Heather Lennon reported she will meet with Rachael Onuf sometime this summer to work on creating an official "Collection Development" policy for the LHC.

**Lancaster Historical Commission Projects:** Further discussion related to how to make progress on the LHC's numerous projects continued with the main emphasis on the Prescott Building move.

**Town Clock:**

Karen Silverthorn and Heather Lennon reported they will have the sections of the video needing rework addressed soon.

**Rowlandson Rock:**

Heather Lennon and Michael Sczerzen will continue to pursue who will be responsible for maintenance of the easement. John Farnsworth completed the survey work for the 30 ft. right of way and wording needs to be studied and written into the final document. We hope to have a dedication ceremony in the fall and plans need to be made.

**Finance:**

Heather Lennon said the proposal that she emailed members about purchasing a reception desk with available money fell through because the parts comprising the unit were not all available by the end of the budget year. Instead, money left in the LHC's budget was used for the purchase of six units of wire-rack storage shelving that exactly matches what we presently have in the 131 Main Street office. The shelving has been received and is stored at 65 Plain Street until the move to the Prescott Building. LHC members unanimously approved the expenditure of \$59.70 from our gift fund to cover the total needed on a motion made by Jean Watson and seconded by Karen Silverthorn. It was also noted that A \$50.00 donation to the gift fund was received from a researcher who recently visited Lancaster.

**Atherton and Ponakin Bridges:**

No report was given. We hope to have a joint meeting with the Planning Board and Trails Committee at a future date to include the two bridges as pedestrian walkways in the town's developing trail system.

**Correspondence:**

A request for consideration of placing a gazebo on the Town Green was discussed. The question of who would maintain such a structure was high on a list of concerns. The LHC will recommend that the woman making the proposal contact the Thayer Field Recreation Committee for possible placement on their campus. A motion was made by Jean Watson

and seconded by Heather Lennon that nothing be placed on the Town Green. It was unanimously approved. A letter will be sent explaining our position. Further, the LHC will pursue information about establishing a "preservation restriction" on the Town Green.

LHC members felt that a history of the town green needs to be compiled which can be presented at a town public meeting at a future date providing current citizens with the significance of this unique historical landscape and the open space the Town Green provides to Lancastrians.

**Signs:**

Jay Moody has inquired about the LHC's opinion regarding the creation of an improved sign for the Community Center including the fact that the Senior Center is located within the building. Heather Lennon volunteered to pursue comprehensive signage for the Town Green with designs which reflect the look of a historical/cultural campus. She will keep in touch with Mr. Moody.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made at 7:39 pm. by Mark Schryver to adjourn and Karen Silverthorn seconded the motion. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote, and it was unanimous.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2016. It will be held at 131 Main Street in the LHC office.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting