

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
September 12, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 131 Main Street at the Historical Commission Office, South Lancaster, MA.

Member(s) Present:

Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, and Jean Watson

Member(s) Absent: Karen Silverthorn

Associate Member(s) Present: Joan Richards

Guest(s): Jay Moody

Ted Manning, DPW

Call to Order:

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the July 25 2016, were reviewed, corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Heather Lennon and seconded by Jean Watson.

Prescott Building:

Chair Michael Sczerzen reported that Select Board Chair Stan Starr said that bids are out to subcontractors at this point in time. Mary Bulso expressed to Heather Lennon hope that the bids would be completed by the end of September and the project should move forward from there.

Seven Bridge Road:

Chair Michael Sczerzen reported that National Grid has withdrawn their proposal for Seven Bridge Road regarding tree/pole removal etc. This was due to strong resident opposition. They are working with Ryan McNutt and Kevin Bartlett to move the electrical lines to Center Bridge Road which is also designated as a "Scenic Road". The LHC emphasized that any tree removal on Center Bridge Road will require a hearing posted by the tree warden. Jean Watson made a motion which was seconded by Joy Peach that a letter be sent to Noreen Piazza and the Conservation Commission to clarify the requirement of the town bylaws. The LHC approved the motion unanimously.

LHC Member(s):

Joan Richards reported she was appointed as a full member by the Board of Selectmen at their August 8, 2016 meeting. She will be sworn in with the town clerk this week.

Jay Moody was introduced to the members by Heather Lennon. He expressed interest in becoming an associate member and will pursue this with the Board of Selectmen soon.

State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Heather Lennon and Joan Richards met with SHRAB representative Rachel Onuf on August 31, 2016. A sample "Collection Management Plan" was reviewed and modified to suit the needs of the LHC. A final draft will be created and submitted to the LHC for review and approval.

Town Clock:

Heather Lennon reported the video is being edited and will be finalized soon by Cable TV representative, Chris Desitkas. LHC members want to have a couple of copies of the DVD for our files.

Bridecake Plain:

A newspaper article by reporter Julia Arie was printed in the Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise (FS&E). Ms. Arie had attended a previous meeting in search of information on the three historic houses on the former Lancaster Industrial School for Girls campus on Old Common Road.

Later, Karen Silverthorn had the FS&E reprint her article on "Goodrest". Copies are in our files. The articles generated no response from the public. The LHC consensus was that the residents in this area need to bring awareness to the town and state regarding the deplorable condition of these historic buildings.

LHC members mentioned again that the Third Meeting House Marker on Old Common Road still needs to be lifted so that it is more visible to the public. This matter needs to be pursued.

Rowlandson Rock:

Joan Richards reported she had attended the August 8, 2016 Planning Board meeting and the August 9, 2016 Conservation Commission meeting. Bruce Warila and his representative from Mullaney Engineering were present to propose a gift of land on Winsor Road to the town. Mr. Warila offered the Conservation Commission a portion of two lots at the upper end of the road to provide space for the handicapped parking and pathway to the "Rock". After a discussion, the Conservation Commission agreed to accept this gift once the issue relating to the septic design on one lot has been resolved.

Joan Richards reported she thanked Mr. Warila and the Conservation Commission on behalf of the LHC.

Finance:

Joan Richards reported a notification from Kathleen Rocco that the August rents on our office and storage room have been paid.

Atherton and Ponakin Bridges:

Heather Lennon said she planned to refer these two bridges to the Trails Committee for incorporation into their trail system.

Correspondence:

Halloween on the Green: The LHC voted on a motion made by Jean Watson and seconded by Joy Peach to participate in the event on October 31st. The LHC will seek getting power to provide light. Joy Peach has made 40 hand crocheted ghosts to hand out to children.

Cemeteries:

Heather Lennon mentioned that Sue Billings had come into the office with a North Village Cemetery plot plan in fragile condition. Sue Billings had it on loan from the Cemetery Department and has been working on an internet "Find-a- Grave" site. Heather Lennon made a photograph copy of the plan and is preparing an index. LHC members felt strongly that the original document should remain with the Historical Commission to ensure its safety. Ted Manning (DPW Commissioner) volunteered to pursue this matter. Discussion included a flat screen printer and other means (including Digital Commonwealth) to copy the original document.

Town Green Signage:

Heather Lennon mentioned the draft sign. The LHC felt we should wait until the Prescott Building is occupied before making a presentation to the Building Inspector and Noreen Piazza so we have complete information and a definite proposal prepared. Heather Lennon and Jay Moody pointed out that signage for the Lancaster Senior Center is inadequate. This matter will be pursued.

Civic District:

No report given. Heather Lennon, representing the LHC, said she had met with Library Director Joe Mule, Rev. Robert Johansen of the First Church of Christ, and, Town Clerk Mary deAlderete regarding the sharing and organization of town records. Another meeting is scheduled tentatively for November.

Ballard Hill Home (Silwa) – Fire Damage: Jean Watson mentioned that the family members are working with the insurance company to put on a new roof and it has been a struggle to get work approved by the adjusters. The North Village Hose House (Garcia residence) which was damaged by fire is still not repaired and may be up for sale.

Adjournment:

A motion was made at 7:50 p.m. by Jean Watson to adjourn and Mark Schryver 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, October 24, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at 131 Main Street in the LHC office.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting