

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
January 29, 2018

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the LHC office at 131 Main Street in South Lancaster.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Brown, Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Jay Moody, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, and Karen Silverthorn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Sczerzen, Jean Watson

GUESTS: Ashley Driscoll (potential Associate Member)

CALL TO ORDER: Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

LHC Membership Changes:

Joan Richards moved that Heather Lennon become the Chairperson as Michael Sczerzen will be moving away from Lancaster in 2019. Karen Silverthorn seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Heather Lennon then opened the floor for nomination for Vice-chair. Joan Richards moved that Michael Sczerzen be selected. Joy Peach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Joan Richards said she would notify appropriate town departments of the change.

Newly appointed associate member Amy Brown was also recognized and welcomed.

PRESCOTT BUILDING:

Heather Lennon reported that finishing touches and final inspections are being completed. The town's interim Building Inspector, Tony Zahariadis, is scheduled to hand the Certificate of occupancy (CO) to Town Administrator (TA) Orlando Pacheco on February 9, 2018.

Heather Lennon recently spoke on the phone with Operations Project Manager (OPM) Mary Bulso and thanked Mary for all her assistance. Members of the LHC agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to Mary Bulso as well as to Lynn Spencer and Arthur Vogt for their steady dedication to the project for the past several years.

An "Open House" is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, 2018th from 12 pm to 3 p.m. for those interested in seeing the inside of the building. The new address for this building will be 701 Thayer Drive.

Jay Moody expressed concern for the condensate pump in the lower level and the fact that there needs to be an alarm system installed to prevent potential water damage in this vulnerable lower level area.

LHC is concerned because our fireproof safes (which will be stored there) are not waterproof.

ATHERTON & PONAKIN BRIDGES:

Heather Lennon reported that she recently met with the TA and Noreen Piazza from the Community Development and Planning office regarding follow-through to have expert Nels Raynor (from Michigan) do a structural analysis for both bridges. The TA said would check with the town Finance Director to see if the needed \$6,000.00 would be available to accomplish this. (This figure includes both the work and travel expenses.)

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

Heather Lennon reported that the required documentation for the grant to be used to erect a Revolutionary War Memorial Marker was submitted by the TA by the December 15, 2017 deadline.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES:

Heather Lennon said that she will contact Kevin Bartlett, Supt. DPW, to discuss hazardous tree removal (including the National GRID proposals). 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. Ashley has begun recording data on the cemetery markers to reunite headstones with misplaced and/or damaged footstones.

TOWN GREEN BUILDING RE-USES PLANNING:

No report given.

ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

No report given

TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):

No report given. Joan Richards said she would contact George Franz to see if there has been any progress on this documentation.

LHC MEMBERSHIP:

Ashley Driscoll mentioned she is not ready to apply for appointment as an associate member but would like to continue as a volunteer for now.

HISTORIC SIGN REFURBISHMENT and HOUSE MARKER

- A. Amy Brown said she culled together some names of sign companies. More information will be pursued as the schedule allows.
- B. Laren Homer of 976 Main Street requested information regarding a historic sign marker for her house. The LHC approved her request and the name on the marker will be: "1898, Nelson S. True House". Ms. Homer will pursue the design with Wass Arthur Signs of Fitchburg, MA.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET:

No report given.

MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL:

December 18, 2017 meeting minutes were read, corrected, and approved on a motion made by Joy Peach and seconded by Joan Richards. The vote carried unanimously.

LHC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017:

Copies of the LHC draft report to be included in Lancaster's Annual Report for 2017 were distributed. Members were asked to review it and to suggest corrections, additions or deletions before it is sent to the Town Clerk by the March deadline.

ABNER POLLARD HOUSE REHABILITATION ON OLD COMMON ROAD

Heather Lennon read an email from consultant Derek Manning of Shepard Historic Preservation Services (hired by the state) dated December 18, 2017. His response to queries on the progress of this building rehabilitation was lengthy. *A copy of the e-mail is held in the file along with the minutes.*

ACCESSIONS:

None reported.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Heather Lennon reported that Tim Castner, of Nashoba Regional High School (NRHS), has prepared a flyer and invited us to a program on a new book about Mary Rowlandson. The program will take place at NRHS on April 5, 2018 at 7 pm. The Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) is co-sponsoring this program.
- B. A copy of a support letter requested by Community Development and Planning Director, Noreen Piazza, was shown to and approved by LHC members. It is in support of a grant submission to the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) for their annual Recreation Trails Grant Program (RTGP). The reason for applying is to get funds to construct a handicap-accessible canoe and kayak launch at the Pellechia Conservation Area on the North Nashua River in Lancaster.
- C. Karen Silverthorn asked if the LHC has any early pictures of the TML for display during their 125th anniversary this spring.
- D. 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 7:30 it was seconded by Joy Peach. Heather Lennon called for the vote, and it carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting