

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
April 24, 2017

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, April 24, 2017 at 6:30 pm at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

MEMBER(S) PRESENT:

Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Sczerzen, Karen Silverthorn and Jean Watson

ASSOCIATE MEMBER(S) PRESENT: Marcia Jakubowicz and Jay Moody

ABSENT: Mark Schryver

GUEST(S): Clifford McMullen representing “Snow Riders of the Nashaway”
Ted Manning, DPW Commissioner

Call to Order:

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

Joan Richards made a motion to move the Atherton and Ponakin Bridges to the top of the agenda to allow ample time for discussion with Cliff McMullen. Heather Lennon seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Center Bridge Road (National Grid Status):

Cliff McMullen asked for an update on the tree removal scheduled for Center Bridge Road by National Grid in the fall. Michael Sczerzen and Joan Richards gave some background information and Heather Lennon spoke about meeting with Scott Farrar from National Grid to identify which trees might be removed in *exchange* with the town for the pole upgrades and replacements on Center Bridge Road.

Cliff McMullen presented a flyer for “Snow Riders of the Nashaway” which has been formed and is part of the Snowmobile Association of Massachusetts. The members were interested in pursuing use of our “National Register” bridges for inclusion in their trail corridors. Discussion followed including town liability, easements and rights of way, connection to other trails, and, partnering with other town groups (e.g. Friends of Nashua River and Trails Committee) for seeking state level grant money that may be available. The LHC encouraged Cliff to visit the office on Tuesday to obtain information on the Ponakin and Atherton Bridges. Cliff said he would.

Heather Lennon made a motion that the LHC support the “Snow Riders of the Nashaway” in their potential efforts to rehabilitate and re-use these historic bridges. Joan Richards seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Abner Pollard House Restoration – 220 Old Common Road:

Derrick Manning, Historical Consultant with Shephard Consulting Group LLC, Braintree, MA e-mailed Heather Lennon and told her he would keep the LHC in the communication loop. His company hopes to have their contracts awarded by mid-May and work will begin. The Massachusetts Department of Capital Asset Maintenance & Management (DCAMM) and Manning’s group are currently in negotiations regarding a heating system for the facility. There will be RFK staff working in the building during the construction phases. The Robert F. Kennedy

(RFK) Action Corp is hoping for donations and financial commitments from many sources, as the building needs many upgrades.

PRESCOTT BUILDING UPDATE:

Michael Sczerzen reported the brick pointing is proceeding along nicely. At the Adhoc Meeting May 17, 2017, information related to National Grid's delay in action related to needed work accomplished in a timely fashion will be impacting the constructor's needing the power and this issue is to be addressed immediately. Occupancy is still on track for late December of 2017. The LHC members discussed issues related to moving our office and storage safely with professional movers.

The LHC received a copy of a letter from MHC stating the deadline for the most recent Mass Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) grant-funding round has closed. Notification of their selections will be published in June. Several entities are requesting MPPF grants. Hopefully Lancaster will receive an award this time around.

CENTER BRIDGE ROAD TREE HEARING:

No further update relating to National Grid's next hearing on tree removal.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES INITIATIVE:

The LHC met with the DPW on December 19, 2016 to discuss their concerns for the poor condition of the cemeteries. This month, Heather Lennon asked Kevin Bartlett about pursuing prisoner work crews for cemeteries clean-ups. He told her that his source said there was no help available. Heather then suggested that he reach out to Gina Perez who is the Community Work Crew supervisor for the Massachusetts Central Division of prisons. Gina, whose office is in Concord, MA, and Kevin had previously been given each other's contact information. It is hoped that they can coordinate work starting with the Old Settlers' Burial Field soon. Joan Richards mentioned she had called Representative Harold Naughton's office about the Worcester House of Correction work crew and that he had sent a letter to the sheriff's office with the request to contact Kevin Bartlett also.

Jay Moody mentioned that the Worcester work crew was coming to help out at the Senior Center soon.

Heather Lennon reported that the initial documentation needed to get the historic cemeteries on the National Register has been mailed to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). Preservation Director Nancy Friedberg then requested more cemetery pictures which Heather will send. MHC will review the preliminary documents and get back with their recommendations soon.

ROWLANDSON ROCK:

The dedication ceremony for Rowlandson Rock was held on Sunday, April 23, 2017 with about twenty-six persons in attendance including two Board of Selectmen (BOS) members and a few members of the Kilbourn family. Michael Sczerzen thanked the Kilbourn family for the gift of the land to the town of Lancaster and expressed appreciation to Bruce Warila who permitted a legal right of way through his property to the site. The Conservation Commission (ConCom) previously accepted the gift on behalf of the town. A site maintenance plan needs to be drawn up by the ConCom, DPW, and LHC as soon as possible. Other suggestions included help from the Eagle Boy Scouts or volunteers coordinated by the LHC.

TOWN CLOCK:

No report given.

This matter remains on indefinite hold.

LHC COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

Through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Nothing new to report.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET FOR FY18:

Joan Richards reported that office supply receipts and postage receipts for reimbursement will be sent to the Accounting Office for processing soon.

CORRESPONDENCE, ACCESSIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Heather Lennon reported that a descendant of John Prescott called and requested an 8" x 10" black and white photo of the Prescott Memorial Marker in the Old Settler's Burial Field.
- B. Joan Richards reported that Adrienne Ordnung donated copies of some poems written by J. C. L. Clarke in a tin can found in the attic wall of her daughter's house on Main Street.
- C. Joan Richards mentioned she attended the dedication of the bench in memory of Victor Koivumaki this past Saturday in the Cook Conservation area.
- D. Karen Silverthorn mentioned that the Freedom's Way "Hidden Treasures" programs will be starting soon. The history month at the library has also gone very well. Michael Szczerzen received a letter from Emily Rose, Board of Trustees, Thayer Memorial library seeking information about the historical museum in the Prescott Building.
- E. The ANNUAL TOWN MEETING will be held on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7 pm at the Rowlandson Elementary School.
- F. The next LHC regular meeting will be Monday, May 22, 2017 at 131 Main Street at 6:30 pm.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES:

Joy Peach moved to accept the minutes of the March 27, 2017 monthly meeting as corrected, Heather Lennon seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Joan Richards moved to adjourn, Joy Peach seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting