

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**October 29, 2018**

A special meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the LHC office on the upper level of the Prescott Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Jay Moody, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Sczerzen, Karen Silverthorn and Jean Watson

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Amy Brown and Mark Schryver

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

After review, the minutes of the October 15, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously as corrected on a motion made by Michael Sczerzen and seconded by Jean Watson.

**BY-LAW CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE 8: SIGNS & ILLUMINATION**

Jay Moody spoke regarding a news article he saw stating that the Town Administrator (TA) mentioned a request from someone to place a billboard on Lancaster land off Route 2 on the outskirts of town. There is a Lancaster Town Bylaw clearing stating the limitations of signage. The building inspector has recommended that the LHC send their inquiries and/or comments to the Planning Board. After any potential approvals by the Planning Board, the request would be directed to the Building Inspector for the issuance of permits. The LHC voted on a motion made by Jay Moody and seconded by Michael Sczerzen to send a letter expressing the LHC concerns related to possible new signage. The vote was unanimous and there will be follow-up.

**CAPITAL PLAN:**

Heather Lennon reported that the TA sent the LHC forms for requesting Capital Improvement funds that would be at \$10,000.00 or more and for a three- year cycle.

Karen Silverthorn made a motion to submit the forms for consideration. It was seconded by Marcia Jakubowitz. LHC members voted unanimously to submit the request for \$10,000 per year for the next three years for hazardous tree removal in the Middle Cemetery. The necessary forms will be submitted to the TA.

**NETFLIX REQUEST FOR GAZEBO ON TOWN GREEN:**

Heather Lennon reported that the TA e-mailed her stating that two BOS members thought there was no need for a public hearing on the Netflix gazebo and that further attempts to educate the public was, in their opinion, unnecessary. Heather Lennon went on to say that she had done further research and had uncovered more information which should be taken into consideration before any decisions were made regarding final placement of the structure. Joan Richards stated that she felt the question should be presented to the townspeople on whether or not they want to keep the Town Green as it has developed over the last two hundred years. It is a beautiful green space and should be preserved as such. Joan reported she had recently spoken with residents and officials of West Boylston and Princeton. Princeton is facing a \$15,000 rehabilitation of their bandstand which was built in the 1990's. West Boylston has an appointed Bandstand Committee to oversee the use and maintenance of the bandstand and they are constantly having to "pass the hat" to raise funds to keep things going.

A lengthy discussion followed. Joan Richards recommended that the TA be asked for specific numbers of those who telephoned town officials in favor of leaving the Netflix structure on the Town Green. Further, how many favorable hardcopy letters/emails were received? Do the numbers represent a true majority or rather those responding to a passing fad?

A very appropriate space in the new Recreational Park currently being developed is potentially available where this structure could be moved and constructed with a cement and gravel base. A handicap ramp could be installed for those needing it. How would this be funded? The current location of the structure puts it out of context with the far more massive and grand-scale buildings surrounding the town green.

It is the charge of the LHC to inform the public of reasons to preserve the past and, if changes are proposed, that they be made with regard to the future impact of those changes. Thoughtful and thorough plans need to be made with consideration to precedents that might cause difficulties for officials in the future. No study has yet been done on the costs of installation, maintenance, allowable uses, or liability in case of accident. LHC members decided to request a meeting with the TA to discuss all this before the BOS take any votes. Chairperson Lennon said she would request such a meeting to be scheduled at a mutually convenient time.

#### **REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL:**

Heather Lennon reported that details of the dedication program are coming together nicely. Senator Tran sent word that he would attend. The Stow Minutemen have agreed to provide three fifers and a drummer. Some Boxborough Minutemen will also attend. Michael Sczerzen asked when the bronze plaque was to be installed. Heather Lennon said she had asked Mary Zoll to get the work accomplished between November 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. A reception at the Thayer Performing Art Center (TPAC) will follow the dedication. A private donation will be given to the TPAC for use of the facility and the amount will be matched by another private donor.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Joan Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm and Michael Sczerzen seconded it. A vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

The LHC's next meeting will be held in the LHC office on the top floor of the Prescott Building (PB) unless otherwise notified.

#### **DATES:**

Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting