

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
April 25, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, April 25, 2016, at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

Members Present:

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

Absent: Jean Watson,

Guest(s): Mark Grasso

Mark Grasso, candidate for Board of Selectmen, arrived at 6:30 p.m. and introduced himself to the LHC members. As he was on his way to a Candidates Night, he was not able to stay for the meeting, but the Commission members thanked him for taking the time to stop by.

CALL TO ORDER:

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the February 29, 2016 and March 28, 2016 were approved unanimously on a motion made by Joy Peach and seconded by Garrett Sheahan.

Prescott Building:

Michael Sczerzen reported on the Ad Hoc Committee meeting held Monday, April 19, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. Floor plans were distributed for review, and it was discovered that the LHC space on the top floor change had, once again, been altered without the LHC's previous knowledge. Town Administrator's and the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) space had been enlarged. Michael Sczerzen expressed frustration that, once again, the Historical Commission had been left out of the planning process.

It was discovered that a walk-through of the Prescott Building for town employees had taken place in early April. The LHC was not informed or invited even though we are so-called "stakeholders" and "town employees" per Ryan McNutt. Michael Sczerzen again objected and was told by Stan Starr, "Michael, I am telling you now." By this change, the LHC loses necessary exhibit space and storage for its growing collection. The exclusion of the LHC from the walk-through for the Prescott Building by the town officials is very disrespectful and nonfeasance.

The LHC members discussed writing a letter to the BOS rejecting the current revised plans to the second floor and seek to remind them that the plan, which was originally voted four times by the town, is what was expected. LHC member Mark Schryver, who is also a professional architect, noted that the space town administrator's (TA) and his assistant is much larger than that provided in other local towns. We feel this is NOT necessary.

Ryan McNutt has frequently expressed his desire to stay in his present quarters in the Town Hall. The LHC strongly recommends that he should stay where he is. When the rest of the staff moves to the Prescott Building first floor, the TA's office will be operational the entire time and not closed enabling an uninterrupted flow of daily business. This office is also handicapped accessible.

Karen Silverthorn made a motion to write the letter, and Mark Schyver seconded it. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote on the motion, and it was unanimous.

Further discussion followed and a motion was made by Mark Schryver and seconded by Heather Lennon to go on record through a confidential letter to the BOS expressing "**No Confidence**" in TA Ryan McNutt. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous. The reasons for this action will be stated in the letter.

The Commission is concerned about the upcoming move into the rehabilitated Prescott Building. Based on the experience of the past moves of our holdings and resulting damage, the LHC feels compelled to pursue this matter to ensure a satisfactory outcome.

Mark Schryver asked that he receive a copy of the "final check" **construction** documents. By so requesting, Mark wishes to eliminate any surprises before the town goes out to bid. Nothing should be overlooked relating to up-to-date code regulations. Mark continued by expressing discouragement regarding the amount of time and effort LHC members have invested over the last several years. Only to be disrespected and ignored by town officials who have chosen to minimize the vote of the town to provide adequate space for the LHC.

Michael Sczerzen asked for a motion send an email to approve Spencer & Vogt's recommendation for the balustrade on the roof which will camouflage and provide safety in dealing with the HVAC units, and elimination of the front door entrance permanently closing this entrance. The elimination of this entrance will not affect the west-facing facade. The LHC further recommends that the granite stairs be reused and not removed from the site when the handicapped ramp is installed. Heather Lennon made a motion to send the email. It was seconded by Garrett Sheahan. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous.

SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board) – Heather Lennon reported she had attended a recent conference at Holy Cross in Worcester. She suggested applying for a second round grant to obtain assistance for the creation of a collection development/management policy. Mark Schryver made a motion to approve this, and it

was seconded by Garrett Sheahan. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous.

LHC (Lancaster Historical Commission) Projects: The members discussed the projects that will be to be pursued when we move into the Prescott Building. Members were encouraged to give suggestions on what expertise they can bring to the projects.

Town Clock: Karen Silverthorn and Heather Lennon reported on the progress of editing and some reworking on the film. The good weather will soon be here so that this work can be completed.

Rowlandson Rock: Heather Lennon and Michael Sczerzen reported that the fence has been re-installed around the water tower and no further information has been received. Heather Lennon will check with Noreen Piazza related to the right-of-way.

Finance: A motion was made by Karen Silverthorn and second by Mark Schryver to approve the following: renewal of Past Perfect software, Heather Lennon's registration for the Digital Commonwealth Conference, and office expenses. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous.

Accessions:

- Jay Moody - a carved bird on stand from the great Beaman oak tree done by Fred Huge.
- Joyce Millet - seven 1938 storm picture post cards, photocopy of the Isaac Taylor family and a copy of Colonial Lancaster.
- Leo & Mary Paquette - 300th Anniversary auto plate, yardstick from Philbin Chevrolet and printed with 94 Main Street, South Lancaster and an Encyclopedia yardstick printed with name Adventist Book Center.
- "Pete" Smith Connery - (brought into the office by Robert Follansbee) a round gold charm from the Lancaster Outing Club (shaped like a baseball).
- Marilyn Chambers - a bottle of honey harvested from the Bulfinch Church in 2010
- Bob Smith - a Chandler paper doll folder reprinted by Herbert Hosmer, a pouch of photo negatives and a photograph of a North Lancaster School group.

Next Meeting: Due to the Memorial Day Holiday falling on the last Monday of May, the next LHC Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 23, 2016.

A motion was made at 8:10 p.m. by Karen Silverthorn to adjourn and Mark Schryver seconded the motion. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote, and it was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting