

**LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**November 19, 2019**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC office on the top floor of the Prescott Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amy Brown, Liz Colley, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, and Karen Silverthorn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mark Schryver, Jean Watson

**GUESTS:** Gregg Jackson, Roy and Christine Mirabeto, Jay Moody, Richard Trussell

**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The meeting minutes of October 28, 2019 were read, corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Liz Colley.

**HALLOWEEN ON THE GREEN:**

Heather Lennon mentioned that the LHC did not have sufficient manpower to participate in the Halloween on the Green event this year but the crocheted ghosts handcrafted by Joy Peach were distributed through the Senior Center. Thanks to Joy for her contribution.

**PROPOSED GOODRICH BROOK/40B DEVELOPMENT:**

Heather Lennon reported that a court date has not yet been set and judge has not yet been assigned to the case brought against the Lancaster Zoning Board of Appeals for attempting to over-ride a decision made by the Lancaster Sewer District Commission regarding Crescent Builders.

Iqbal Ali of Crescent Builders is also reportedly trying to acquire the never finished Jones Crossing development adjoining the proposed 40B project as well as the acreage included in 0 Deershorn Road. This matter was of great concern to members and a lengthy discussion took place trying to determine an appropriate response from the LHC

**0 DEERSHORN ROAD – KILBOURN 61A AGRICULTURAL LAND**

Heather Lennon reported that she had received a packet of information via e-mail relating to 0 Deershorn Road from Kathi Rocco, Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Comment from town Boards and Commissions was requested with a deadline of December 2, 2019. Lennon said she would forward the packet to all LHC members for their review and input.

In follow-up remarks Lennon said that, at the BOS meeting of December 18, 2019, attorney Janet Morrison spoke and pointed out several deficiencies in the Purchase and Sale agreement between Crescent Builders and Gail N.Kilbourn. The Town Administrator (TA) then said he would have a town attorney review the document. Lennon said a Planning Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, November 25, 2019 at the Mary Rowlandson School Auditorium at 7 p.m. with 0 Deershorn Road on the agenda. All were encouraged to attend.

**679 GEORGE HILL ROAD – HAWTHORN HILL ESTATE:**

Aside from information previously reported, the future of the remaining parcels is still unknown. There was discussion regarding the development of the lots already sold and the subsequent impact on Hilltop Road.

**TOWN GREEN:**

No new information was reported.

**OLD COMMON INITIATIVE:**

Heather Lennon reported that on November 1, 2019 she sent a letter to Commissioner Carol Gladstone of the Department of Capital Assets and Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) asking why previous inquiries regarding the future of the campus have been ignored. The entire campus is on the National Register of Historic Places. On the same day, a letter was sent to National Register (NR) Director, Betsy Friedberg at the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). This letter asked for *clear definition* of what is meant by “*limited protection*” for NR designated properties and structures. Representative Harold Naughton had expressed interest in following these inquiries and was sent copies of both letters.

**FINANCE:**

Joan Richards made a motion that the LHC vote \$1,000 to pay, from the LHC gift fund, for the restoration of the Thayer display case and cleaning of the mounted birds inside. This was recently donated through Principal Sean O’Shea at the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School. Karen Silverthorn seconded the motion. A vote was called and it carried unanimously. LHC members were very pleased with the restoration of this donation and it is on display in the LHC office.

**ACQUISITIONS:**

Joan Richards made a motion, seconded by Karen Silverthorn that the LHC accept the postcard collection and history book on Harvard, MA recently donated by LHC member Jean Watson. A vote was called for and carried unanimously.

**EXHIBIT ROOM AND DOLLHOUSE PROJECT:**

Heather Lennon asked for volunteers to help sort, identify and prepare numerous Hosmer puppets and marionettes for display on the mock puppet stage in the Exhibit Room.

**PROJECT HEADSTONE/FOOTSTONE:**

Work on this project will continue early in 2020 when the weather improves. Previous work on cleaning the stones has progressed nicely; and, the removal of the trees on the north side of Middle Cemetery (MC) has also made a noticeable and positive difference in the overall condition and look of the area.

**MARKERS AND SIGNS PROJECT:**

Amy Brown continues with her work on a spreadsheet for identifying the location and condition of markers and signs around town. The whereabouts of missing markers will be pursued with the intention of getting them returned and put back into place.

**COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN -DISASTER PLAN COMPONENT:**

Karen Silverthorn mentioned she is still waiting to receive the necessary template to devise a disaster plan jointly between the Thayer Memorial Library (TML) and the LHC. The collections of both are similar in some respects and disaster plans would be similar.

LHC MINUTES 11-19-19 APPROVED

### **VISIONING FOR THE TOWN OF LANCASTER:**

Heather Lennon introduced Lancaster resident Christine Mirabito who presented her plan for approaching the town's Planning Board about shaping the town's future development. This is *critical* as the town is presently facing an onslaught of developers driven by little more than a profit motive. After a lengthy discussion, LHC members encouraged Lennon to address the Planning Board (PB) and BOS about these issues. Lancaster needs a *clearly articulated vision and guidelines* for development to preserve the character and culture of this town as it has evolved through the centuries. The Master Plan of 2007 needs to be adhered to and updated.

### **OTHER MATTERS:**

It was mentioned that the TA's work contract is coming up for renewal with a date of December 31, 2019. The contract might automatically be renewed for another three year period.

Chairperson Stanley Starr stated in the BOS meeting of November 18, 2019 that anyone wishing to submit comments related to this can do so at any time. LHC members mentioned that they would like clarification regarding the TA's exact job description.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next LHC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC Office.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn was by made by Joan Richards at 8:50 pm. Joy Peach seconded the motion, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards  
Recorder for the meeting.

**NOTE:** The LHC did *not* meet in December, 2019 due to bad weather.