

MINUTES  
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
July 25, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, July 27 2016 at 131 Main Street at the Historical Commission Office, South Lancaster, MA.

**Members Present:**

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

Absent: Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorne

Guest(s): Mark Grasso until 7:00 p.m.

Ted Manning, DPW, Julia Arie, Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise (FS&E)  
Newspaper

**Call to Order:**

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The LHC did not have an August

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes of the June 27 2016, were corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Heather Lennon and seconded by Joy Peach.

**Prescott Building:**

Selectmen Mark Grasso said that the plans had been given to Lancaster Fire Chief Michael Hansen, for review. After that, they are to be submitted to the State Fire Marshall for review. Once approved, bids on the project will be sought. The LHC thanked Selectmen Grasso for coming to the meeting.

The town website will show the final plans but they may be so small that they cannot be downloaded in a usable form.

**Seven Bridge Road:**

Chairman Michael Sczerzen reported that the National Grid Power Company representative did not appear at the most recent Conservation Commission and have asked for a continuance. LHC members will continue to attend meetings of the Conservation Commission and will continue to research information related to the "Scenic Road" designation. Ted Manning provided input relating to tree wardens and public hearings relating to tree cutting. Discussion followed.

**Resignation of LHC Member:** In the email from Garrett Sheahan sent to the Board of Selectmen, June 27, 2016 Meeting, he expressed regret that he had to resign effective immediately due to personal reasons. He also expressed his concern for the "... disregard

for the Commission by town government and management for the Commission's proactive initiatives, tireless efforts to preserve, promote and share Lancaster's history and assets is discouraging and threatens the remaining historical and natural qualities that should be cherished by all residents and employees".

Chairman Michael Sczerzen called for a motion to accept with regret Garrett Sheahan's resignation; and Jean Watson made the motion which was seconded by Joy Peach. The Chair called for the vote and it was unanimous.

**Appointment of new full member to fill this vacancy:**

Joan Richards agreed to be appointed a full member from associate member, and has sent her request in to the Board of Selectmen for their consideration.

A motion was made by Heather Lennon and seconded by Jean Watson to recommend to the Board of Selectmen consideration for Joan Richards to full member. Chair Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous. An appropriate email will be sent to the BOS recommending Joan Richards.

**State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):**

Heather Lennon reported she will meet with Rachael Onuf August 31, 2016 to work on creating an official "Collection Development" policy for the LHC. Joan Richards volunteered to work on this project.

**Lancaster Historical Commission Projects:** Projects need to be prioritized as we move forward. LHC's numerous projects continue with the main emphasis being placed on the Prescott Building.

**Town Clock:**

Karen Silverthorn and Heather Lennon reported they will have the sections of the video needing rework addressed soon. Karen has completed the tapping and we are waiting to hear back from the Cable TV representative, Chris Desitkas.

**Bridecake Plains:**

News reporter Julia Arie from the Fitchburg Sentinel and Enterprise attended the meeting in search of information on the three historic houses on the former Lancaster Industrial School for Girls campus on Old Common Road. Discussion of the structures followed and she has provided with information and photos for her upcoming story.

**Rowlandson Rock:**

Heather Lennon reported that town planner Noreen Piazza is working with Bruce Warila on an agreement regarding land to be donated to the town adjoining the parcel where the "Rock" is located. Ted Manning said that the right of way will need to be approved by the DPW.

**Finance:**

The FY2015 budget funds have been expended. Instead of a reception desk, six units of metal shelving were purchased. These units match the shelving we already have and were delivered fully assumed from W. B. Mason. The reception desk will be purchased with money from next year's budget.

**Atherton and Ponakin Bridges:**

No report was given. We hope to have a joint meeting with the Planning Board and Trails Committee at a future date to include the two bridges as pedestrian walkways in the town's developing trail system.

**Correspondence:**

A request from the Town Clerk was directed to Chairman Michael Sczerzen pertaining to the death of Mary Paquette and her relationship to the LHC. Michael She was never a member but she and her husband Leo Paquette have given many valuable Lancaster related donations to the LHC over the years. Chairman Sczerzen will pass this information on to the clerk. .

**Town Green Signage:**

Heather Lennon passed out a prototype of signage for the Historic Town Green. The question regarding signage was prompted by Lancaster resident Jay Moody who has pointed out that signage for the Lancaster Senior Center is **inadequate**. He was seeking the opinion of the LHC. This matter will be pursued.

**Civic District:**

Joan Richards reported on her telephone conversation with Massachusetts Historical Commission related to preservation restrictions, and their recommendation to pursue a Civil District for the buildings surrounding the Town Green here in Lancaster. This matter will be pursued.

**Adjournment:**

A motion was made at 8:05 p.m. by Jean Watson to adjourn and Heather Lennon seconded the motion. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote, and it was unanimous.

**Next Meeting:**

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Monday, September 12, 2016. It will be held at 131 Main Street in the LHC office.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting