

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
December 18, 2017

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, December 18, 2017 at 6:30 pm at the LHC office at 131 Main Street in South Lancaster.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Sczerzen, and Karen Silverthorn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Moody, Mark Schryver, Jean Watson

GUESTS: Amy Brown (potential Associate Member)

CALL TO ORDER: Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

PRESCOTT BUILDING:

Michael Sczerzen reported that the contractor had to fix an unexpected roof leak and that lights hanging from the ceilings were also in need of adjustment. The next AD HOC meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2018 at 12 noon in the Town Hall auditorium. The selected mover will meet with town employees and LHC members on January 10, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. in the town hall to discuss packing requirements. The actual move is presently scheduled to begin on Friday, January 19, 2018.

ATHERTON & PONAKIN BRIDGES:

Heather Lennon reported having received an email from Noreen Piazza stating she had contacted bridge expert Nels Raynor (from Michigan) to request a new estimate for a structural analysis for both bridges. A completed structural analysis is necessary before any further action can be taken.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY: (through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Heather Lennon reported that the required documentation for the grant has been gathered and will be submitted by Town Administrator (TA) Orlando Pacheco by the December 15, 2017 deadline after having cleared it through the Board of Selectmen (BOS).

HISTORIC CEMETERIES:

Heather Lennon said that the TA gave her a couple names of tree removal vendors and would make him available to walk through with them when they are there. Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent Kevin Bartlett will also be called upon to be present. A \$10,000 amount voted by the town at the first special Town Meeting in October is available.

Michael Sczerzen suggested that tree cutting/removal start on the north-west corner of the Middle Cemetery (MC) where many of the old trees are dead or dying. Ashley Driscoll a LHC volunteer for "Project Footstone" has started work on recording the data. The purpose will be to reunite headstones with misplaced and/or damaged footstones.

TOWN GREEN BUILDING RE-USES PLANNING:

No report given.

ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

Scout Leader John Aurin has contacted Michael Sczerzen and Heather Lennon. Heather has talked with him regarding selecting a date to meet with the Eagle Scout who is interested in presenting a project to the LHC.

Heather will schedule a time with John Aurin when the ground is not snow covered.

TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU): Michael Sczerzen reported he has reminded the First Church chair-person of the “Standing Committee” to pursue scheduling a meeting with TA Orlando Pacheco to formalize the specifics on all aspects of the MOU.

Joan Richards mentioned that the DVD done by Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) and the Sterling Lancaster cable TV is also available for reference on the gear winding and maintenance supplies used. Marcia Jakubowicz mentioned the clock winder previous to John Spencer was John Fisher. It was suggested that someone research the names of those who have been appointed through the years by the town to do the job of clock winder. This will be pursued.

LHC MEMBERSHIP:

Potential associate member Amy Brown was introduced and interviewed by LHC members. Joan Richards moved that the LHC recommend her to the BOS. Heather Lennon seconded the motion, Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it carried unanimously. An e-mail will be sent to the BOS reflecting this as a follow-up to Amy’s letter of interest to them.

HISTORIC SIGN REFURBISHMENT:

A brief discussion was held and the matter will be brought up again at a future meeting.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET:

No report given.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

Minutes of the November 27, 2017 meeting were read, corrected, and approved on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Joy Peach. The vote carried unanimously.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

The BOS has approved the membership changes of Imogene Watson to associate member and Jay Moody to full member.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Pollard House on Old Common Road:

Heather Lennon read an email from consultant Derek Manning of Shepard Historic Preservation Services (hired by the state) dated December 18, 2017. His response to queries on the progress of this building rehabilitation was lengthy. *A copy of the e-mail is held in the file with the minutes.*

ACCESSIONS:

- A. Heather Lennon reported she has received a donation offer from former Lancaster resident Jocelyn Fay whose family is related to Luther Burbank. Fay wishes to donate written documents, memorabilia and a framed piece of “coach lace” fabricated in Clinton long ago. LHC members unanimously favored accepting the donation and Heather will convey this to Ms. Fay.
- B. Michael Sczerzen reported that Leo Paquette has donated his wife’s (Mary Dymont Paquette) Dymont family genealogy and a framed picture of the former Lancaster High School (now the Prescott Building). Joan Richards made a motion to accept these accessions from Mr. Paquette, Heather Lennon seconded, and it carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A. Heather Lennon mentioned that the Mabel Bartlett Gallery on the campus of Atlantic Union College (AUC) has recently been re-opened with a display entitled “Reason for the Season” with numerous nativity scenes from around the world. The hours are Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. until December 26th.
- B. Karen Silverthorn reported that Lancaster’s forthcoming “Hidden Treasure” through Freedom’s Way will be a show on Lancaster-born (in 1868) astronomer Henrietta Leavitt. She is considered a female “pioneer” in the field of astronomy. More information regarding this program will be forthcoming.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:

Joan Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. It was seconded by Heather Lennon. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote, and it carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, January 29, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the new multi-purpose meeting room on the second floor of the Prescott Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting