

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
November 28, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, November 28, 2016 at 131 Main Street at the Historical Commission Office, South Lancaster, MA.

Member(s) Present:

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

Absent: Mark Schryver

Guest(s):

Mark Grasso, Jr., Jay Moody, and Marcia Jakubowicz

Call to Order:

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 24, 2016 meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Heather Lennon and seconded by Joy Peach.

Prescott Building:

Board of Selectmen (BOS) member Mark Grasso reported that Operations Project Manager, Mary Bulso, has scheduled an Ad Hoc meeting December 5 at 3:00 p.m. in the Town Hall auditorium. It is an open meeting and anyone may attend. The bids Mary has received are coming in lower than the previous ones. Once the final decisions are made, the work may commence as early as December. Heather Lennon said she spoke to Mary Bulso and the storm windows have been ordered. Windows in the front have been previously re-glazed/restored with grant money. The windows on the remaining three sides need to be re-glazed/restored. Grant money may be required to accomplish this.

Center Bridge Road:

Michael Sczerzen reported that Ryan McNutt told him that he would schedule a meeting this week with National Grid related to the removal of trees and poles placement. Selectman Grasso indicated he knew nothing of this.

State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Heather Lennon reported she and Joan Richards continue to gather information to finalize the draft for our new Collection Management Policy. Once it is ready, Heather will send it to Rachel Onuf, Roving Archivist at SHRAB. After Rachel has reviewed it, it will be shared with LHC members for further review and comment.

New Associate Members:

Joan Richards made a motion to send the BOS letters of approval regarding the appointment of Jay Moody and Marcia Jakubowicz as associate members. The motion was seconded by Karen Silverthorn and unanimously approved by LHC members.

Town Clock:

Matters relating to ownership/maintenance of the Town Clock were discussed at length. It became clear that an agreement documenting ownership and maintenance responsibilities to the Town of Lancaster and the First Church of Christ, Unitarian the needs to be formalized. With frequent changes in town leadership, having a readily accessible document available would be advantageous for all. BOS member Mark Grasso said he would pursue this with his fellow BOS members.

Rowlandson Rock:

A dedication program by the Lancaster Historical Society is scheduled for April, 2017 noting the donation of the land parcel from the family of the late Bill Kilbourn (former owner of the Rowlandson Rock parcel) to the town of Lancaster. The Conservation Commission is still awaiting final word from abutter Bruce Warila defining to the terms of the "right of way" (to the "Rock") gift.

Finance:

Joan Richards will ask administrative assistant Kathi Rocco to routinely send us a copy of the LHC's monthly report from the Finance Director for our LHC office records. Joan will additionally request monthly statements for our files.

Cemeteries:

Recent pictures were shown of the Old Settler's and Middle Cemeteries. Michael Sczerzen said he was appalled by the condition of the Old Settlers' Burial Yard with pine saplings growing everywhere and long unmown grass. He stated that it appeared the saplings had been growing for at least three years. Pictures were also shown of footstones, which have been pulled up, carelessly tossed about and broken in both the Old Settlers' and the Middle Cemeteries.

LHC members expressed deep concern regarding the lack of respect and lack of adequate care for these important and irreplaceable historic town assets. It was agreed to have Joan Richards arrange for the LHC to meet with the DPW at their next meeting which will be coming up on December 19, 2016. LHC members will share their numerous cemetery concerns and suggestions for improvement with DPW Commissioners and employees at that time.

Town Green Signage:

Pictures of the Lancaster Community Center (LCC) entryway were shown and suggestions were made to provide **better visual aids** for the public. Jay Moody will pursue this matter with LCC director Alex Turner. It was also suggested to have **clear directions** to the

building on the town's official website. It was noted that concerns regarding adequate signage will be ongoing as the Town Green campus evolves over the next few years.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:49 p.m. by Heather Lennon. It was seconded by Joy Peach and was approved unanimously.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Monday, December 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. It will be in the LHC office held at 131 Main Street in South Lancaster.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting