

TOWN OF LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Meeting Minutes
December 30, 2020

Members Present:

Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joan Richards, and Karen Silverthorn

Members Absent:

Liz Colley, Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

Guest:

Jay Moody

Call to Order:

Chairperson Lennon called the meeting (*via ZOOM*) to order at 5:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Marcia Amy Brown to approve the meeting minutes of November 30, 2020 as printed. Chairperson Lennon called for the vote and it carried unanimously.

Devens South Post Update:

Joan Richards reported she has not had any further information since the last meeting. She will follow-up with the Town Administrator (TA) to see if the U.S. Army has gotten back with any information to report in January.

Status of Significant Property Developments/Sales in Lancaster:

1. 381 Main Street -- Chairperson Lennon reported that the new owners are continuing upgrades. The most visible is new shingled siding on the "Brown House" which is looking good.
2. 679 George Hill Road -- Chairperson Lennon reported she is waiting for a reply to her email requesting an update from the prospective new owner.
3. 438 Main Street -- Chairperson Lennon reported she is waiting for a reply to her email to the Atlantic Union Conference office requesting an update on the status of the potential sale of the Music Conservatory Building.

Special Project Reports:

1. Chairperson Lennon reported that two applications have been submitted to the Lancaster Cultural Council (LCC) from the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS):
 - A. The first one requests funds to go for the ongoing Hosmer Project.
 - B. The second one requests funds to go toward the cost of a sign to mark the site of Lancaster's First and Second Meeting Houses which were both burned by Natives.
2. The LHS has publicized information pertaining to a six-part of series on Lancaster's prominent Thayer family. A schedule of dates for viewing, safely from home during COVID times, is available upon request.
3. The LHS website is up and running thanks to Timothy Kenny, volunteer Webmaster. The town website has a link to the LHS website as well as to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC). There are now more opportunities to answer inquiries regarding Lancaster history.

Historical Trail Maps:

Amy Brown e-mailed her map to LHC members for review after the last meeting. It is now the consensus of the LHC that the map(s) should highlight different themed walking tours:

- A. Early settlements and garrison sites
- B. Native and Mary Rowlandson sites
- C. Cemetery sites
- D. Gilded Age/Thayer sites

Other Business:

Demolition:

13 Neck Rd. -- Historic Dr. Calvin Carter House

After discussion, it was the consensus of the LHC that a letter be sent to the owner, Mr. John Cherubini, expressing disappointment and encouraging him to build something on the lot that will be in keeping with the look and feel of this historic neighborhood in Lancaster Center. MHC will also be notified of the demolition. Research regarding the last demolition delay bylaw attempt in Lancaster was suggested.

Future Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Adjournment:

Marcia Jakubowicz made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Amy Brown, and approved unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting.