

Lancaster Historical Commission

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2021

Members Present: Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, and Karen Silverthorn

Members Absent: Liz Colley, Jean Watson

Guests: Christine Mirabito, Roy Mirabito, Dick Trussell, and Greg Brackett

Call to Order:

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

Meeting ID: 824 3055 0040 Passcode: 523729

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of January 27, 2021 were approved unanimously as corrected on a motion was made by Amy Brown and seconded by Mark Schryver.

Approval of 2020 Annual Report:

Heather Lennon had previously distributed a draft of the LHC Annual Report for review. A motion was made by Joan Richards and seconded by Amy Brown to approve the document. A unanimous vote was taken. The Annual Report will be sent to the Town Clerk per her request for inclusion in the town's Annual Report.

Economic Development Committee (EDC):

Roy Mirabito was welcomed and reported that the EDC has met with the Board of Selectmen (BOS). Members are: Phil Eugene (Chair), Roy Mirabito, Rebecca Young Jones, Joe D'Eramo, Mark Grasso, and George Franz and possibly BOS member Jason Allison. The EDC would still like representation from the LHC. This matter was discussed.

The EDC will be having a Zoom meeting this Thursday, Feb. 26th and have invited the Capital Group co-owners for discussion of their plans for their North Lancaster property. The meeting will be open to the public with a link to attend on the town's website.

Roy also mentioned a recent 51 page document regarding Commercial Development in South Lancaster. The report makes mention of Atlantic Union College (AUC) whose core campus, Roy reported, is in the process of being sold. Chairperson Lennon said she would locate the document mentioned above and forward it to all LHC members.

Devens South Post Update:

Joan Richards reported that the Conservation Commission (ConCom) meeting for January 27, 2021 had a National Guard (NG) representative on their agenda. However, she has not heard anything regarding any decisions. ConCom agent David Koonce later informed Joan that the NG is again scheduled for March 9, 2021 with the possibility of another continuance if necessary.

Significant Property Developments/Sales in Lancaster:

Guest Greg Brackett reported the sale of the Hawthorn Hill Carriage House and mentioned that 20 acres of land were included. Guest Dick Trussell mentioned that the proposal for purchasing another parcel of 130 acres is still under discussion with the ConCom with no final plan submitted yet. The mansion with its included acreage is still ongoing according to plans mentioned in previous LHC minutes.

Grant Applications: Chairperson Lennon reported that she received notification from Lancaster Cultural Council (LCC) and Freedom's Way (FW) that the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) has been awarded two grants, which will cover the cost of the new sign for the First and Second Meetinghouses to be located along Route 70 on the northwest corner of Middle Cemetery.

A brochure with a map is currently being developed for "Twenty-two Sites of Early Settlement" for distribution in May, 2021 when the new sign will be unveiled in a special ceremony. Chairperson Lennon thanked Amy Brown for her help and assistance in the creation of the map. Currently, LHS webmaster Timothy Kenny is working on an on-line version

Gift Fund:

Chairperson Lennon reported that the amount left in the fund is \$2,600.00. It was originally designated to be used by the LHC for collection preservation. Karen Silverthorn made a motion that the LHC approve expenditures from the gift fund for archival supplies and any necessary work needed to facilitate preservation. Mark Schryver seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Other Business:

Dick Trussell of the Finance Committee (FinCom) asked if the LHC had any recent information on the three year plan for funding cemetery tree removal submitted through the Town Administrator (TA). Heather Lennon said she has not received any recent details and will follow-up with the TA. Also, after discussion, it was decided that Chairperson Lennon and Dick Trussell will make an appointment to meet in person with Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent Kevin Bartlett to discuss potential uses for the Perpetual Care Fund which currently contains \$49,000.00. Joan Richards mentioned that the mowing of the cemeteries with ride-on machines has caused great damage to numerous gravestones. Hand mowing would be preferable. Chairperson Lennon mentioned damage to a number of stones knocked over and split in half over just the last few months. Hopefully, Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds will soon provide assistance in the repair of damaged stones and restoration of the our treasured historic cemeteries.

Future Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 31, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark Schryver, seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz and carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting.