

**Lancaster Historical Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*March 31, 2021*

**Members Present:** Amy Brown, Liz Colley, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Karen Silverthorn

**Members Absent:** Marcia Jakubowicz, Mark Schryver, Jean Watson

**Guests:** None

**Call to Order:**

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

Meeting ID: 882 0244 0931 Passcode: 331761

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of February 24, 2021 were approved unanimously as written on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Joy Peach.

**Economic Development Committee (EDC):**

After follow-up discussion, LHC members decided the best course of action would be to offer opinions as called on different issues for rather than having a seat on the EDC. A motion to that effect was made by Joan Richards and seconded by Amy Brown. The motion carried unanimously. Roy Mirabito will be informed of the decision by Chairperson Lennon via e-mail.

**Memorial School Re-use Committee:**

The Town Administrator (TA) has strongly encouraged the LHC to have a seat on the newly to be resurrected above named committee. A letter of interest was encouraged. After discussion, it was the consensus of LHC members that more deliberation will be needed. The matter will be taken up again at the April meeting.

**Devens South Post Update:**

Joan Richards reported plans are moving ahead to alter the site per the plans previously submitted to town boards. It is hoped that all environmental concerns, as were to be addressed, will be taken into account and followed through upon. However, the overall impact on the town is anticipated to be negative with regard to quality of life for Lancastrians, especially those living close to the South Post.

### **Significant Property Developments/Sales in Lancaster:**

- A.** The potential buyer of the Hawthorn Hill Estate is still moving forward toward completion of the sale.
- B.** Both the Atlantic Union College (AUC) core campus and the Thayer Conservatory of Music (TCM) have reportedly been sold with the identity of the buyers to be made known at a later date. The TA also informed Chairperson Lennon that the peripheral housing along the streets surrounding the core campus has also been sold to a single buyer.
- C.** The Perkins-School (PS) and the Robert F. Kennedy Children's Action Corps (RFK) will be merged and known under a new "BRAND" name by June 31, 2021 per information from Dr. Michael Ames of the Perkins School. A letter of support for Dr. Ames was requested and approved by LHC members as he seeks stimulus money for the project. Chairperson Lennon also shared information on the historical aspects of the Old Common, especially the three white frame buildings on the former campus of the Lancaster Industrial School for Girls. Positive outcomes are hoped for with only guarded expectations of achieving them.

### **LHS Sign and Brochure Update:**

Mary Zoll, of Regonini-Zoll in Clinton, has been given the "go ahead" for sign fabrication. It should be ready by mid-April and will be paid for through grant monies awarded to the LHS. A first draft of the brochure has been shared with the LHS Executive Board. Currently, LHS webmaster Timothy Kenny is working on a next draft. When finalized, the LHS will have about 100 printed for distribution at the Freedom's Way (FW) sign unveiling event.

### **Freedom's Way Event:**

The "Twenty-Two Site of Early Settlement" event will take place on Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 2 pm near the northwest corner of the Middle Cemetery. LHC members were encouraged to join the LHS (become members) and to be on hand to act as guides for attendees. Help and support is really needed.

### **Cemetery Care:**

Earlier in the month, severe winds blew down an overly mature and rotten tree in the Old Common Cemetery. The tree trunk and numerous branches fell across several irreplaceable gravestones. DPW Supt. Kevin Bartlett and other town officials were notified and LHC member Liz Colley took numerous photos documenting the damage. The debris was quickly removed but this ongoing problem needs a more permanent solution. Fortunately, Chairperson Lennon has

been informed by the TA that \$7,000.00 may be spent from this year's budget for tree removal. She will be moving forward to see that action is taken.

**LHC Gift Fund:**

As previously reported, about \$2600.00 remains in the fund. Martha Moore will submit a list of items to be purchased for the Hosmer Puppet Project and Marcia Jakubowicz will also be encouraged to submit a list of needed items to purchase for the Hosmer Dollhouse Project. Joan Richards made a motion to spend down the money. It was seconded by Amy Brown and the motion carried unanimously.

**Unanticipated Item:**

Amy Brown reported on an interactive map/brochure she is working on. The project involves sites of importance to Native history both in Lancaster in other towns within the region. Discussion ensued and the launch of this may become part of LHS programming in the fall. It is hoped to work cooperatively with the Thayer Memorial Library (TML) on programming.

**Future Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Richards, seconded by Karen Silvesthorne and it carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting.