

Lancaster Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2021

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

Members Absent: Liz Colly, Mark Schryver, Jean Watson

Guests: None

Call to Order:

Chairperson Lennon called the meeting (*via ZOOM*) to order at 5:03 pm.

Meeting ID: 854 4668 6205 Passcode: 267086

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of March 31, 2021 were approved unanimously as edited on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Joy Peach.

Memorial School Re-use Committee:

Chairperson Lennon reported that Mark Schryver and she will be sharing the LHC seat on this committee. Other members may also sit in from time to time. The first meeting has not yet been scheduled.

Devens South Post Update:

Joan Richards reported the National Guard is moving ahead with their plans to update the firing range and they are still awaiting the Lancaster Conservation Committee's decision on the issues related to wetland and endangered species. Joan mentioned that there has been plenty of weekend weapon maneuvers with helicopters flying over North Lancaster (Devens South Post Firing Ranges) and explosions recently. It is hoped that all environmental concerns, as were to be addressed, will be taken into account and followed through upon.

Significant Property Developments/Sales in Lancaster:

1. Hawthorn Hill – still pending
2. AUC Residential Properties – Sold to developer Ray Safi
3. AUC Core Campus and Music School – still pending
4. Perkins/RFK Merger --still pending
5. Former LISG/DCAMM Campus –

A team of Harvard and MIT students have produced an affordable housing plan which will be sent to all LHC members for review.

Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) Sign and Brochure Update:

Regonini-Zoll of Clinton have placed the pole to hold the new sign which is ready for installation just prior to the planned dedication program. Webmaster Tim Kenney has designed and sent an accompanying brochure out for printing.

The date will be confirmed with Freedom's Way for Sunday, May 23, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Permission to use the nearby Thayer Conservatory driveway for off-highway parking has been granted. Volunteers are called for to help give guidance to attendees.

Cemetery Care:

Chairperson Lennon reported on her recent meeting with the Town Administrator (TA) regarding hazardous tree removal in the Middle Cemetery (MC). Brian Favreau has submitted an estimated cost of \$21,000.00 for the removal of five huge trees and the TA has agreed to work on getting the funding. DPW Superintendent Kevin Bartlett has been kept informed. Though the price seems high, it is considered more cost effective to do the job all at once.

LHC Gift Fund:

Heather Lennon reported that Martha Moore and Marcia Jakubowicz amounts up to \$1,000.00 each to purchase items relating to the Hosmer puppet and dollhouse restoration projects they are working on.

Ponakin and Atherton Bridges:

In response to a query from Amy Brown, Heather Lennon and Joan Richards gave background information on these two unique and very historically significant bridges. Previous attempts have been made to get the run-down antique bridges on a path to rehabilitation but nothing has happened due to a lack of funding and manpower. This has been an ongoing concern of the LHC for decades.

Unanticipated Item:

Amy Brown needs a photograph of the Trucking House marker on Goss Lane.

Future Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, May, 26, 2021 at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Richards, seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz and it carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting.