

`MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
October 24, 2016

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 131 Main Street at the Historical Commission Office, South Lancaster, MA.

Member(s) Present:

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

Guest(s): Mark Grasso, Jr.
Sue Billings

Call to Order:

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

Chairman Michael Sczerzen asked for a motion to move the Agenda Item #2 Prescott Building and #4 Center Bridge Road up for discussion as Selectman Grasso has to leave for another meeting. The motion was made and seconded and voted unanimously.

Prescott Building: Selectman Mark Grasso reported that the Project Manager had to go out for the general contract bids again to comply with regulation issues that happened (not the town's fault). Mark Grasso said that the occupancy goal is January of 2018.

Halloween: Mark Grasso said that the Police Dept. set the time for trick or treating at 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The town green time was previously announced at 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Commission members who are able to hand out candy and Joy Peach's crocheted ghosts will meet in front of the Prescott Building and there will be electric power for lighting.

Michael Sczerzen said he had recently seen Lynn Spencer and was told changes to the windows would be necessary to keep costs in check. A grant for this work will be pursued by the town for the window exterior when the next round of Massachusetts State Preservation Project applications are announced. We will check with Noreen Piazza on this matter.

Center Bridge Road: Selectman Grasso reported that National Grid has submitted the necessary paperwork to ask for hearings related to poles and tree removal (5 trees) along Center Bridge Road in order to complete this project. The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be November 7th at which time National Grid is scheduled on their agenda. Their proposal will be presented soon. The Historical Commission consensus was relieved that the Seven Bridge Road Proposal was withdrawn by National Grid.

The Commission thanked Selectman Grasso for taking the time to come to speak to these issues.

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the September 12 2016, meeting were reviewed, corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Heather Lennon and seconded by Joy Peach.

LHC Member(s):

The Commission had not heard back from Jay Moody who indicated an interest in becoming an associate member.

State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Heather Lennon reported she and Joan Richards continue to gather information and finalize the draft of the Collection Management Policy. Once it is ready for view, Heather will send it to Rachel Onuf, Roving Archivist at SHRAB (State Historic Record Advisory Board). As soon as it is reviewed, Heather will bring it before LHC members for review and approval.

Town Clock:

Heather Lennon reported the town clock video is complete and she will pick up the copies tomorrow from Cable TV representative, Chris Desitkas.

Bridecake Plain: No report given

Rowlandson Rock:

It was reported that once all the legal issues are resolved with the septic leach field design, on one lot, and now that Bruce Warila has decided what course he wants to follow, the Conservation Commission will consider accepting the land. A dedication of the Rowlandson site and signage for the Kilbourn family gift will occur in April 2017. We will need volunteers to clean up the debris and path. A plan for continued maintenance of the area needs to be worked on with the Conservation Commission. We need joint meetings as soon as they have officially accepted the land.

Joan Richards reported she thanked Mr. Warila and the Conservation Commission on behalf of the LHC.

Finance:

Joan Richards will ask Kathy Rocco if she can send us a copy of the Historical Commission monthly report from the Finance Director for our records.

Atherton and Ponakin Bridges: No report given

Cemeteries:

Sue Billings came to discuss her work with "Find-A-Grave" and the history she learned about the Eastwood Cemetery records. She also asked the status on the North Village Cemetery plot plan. Heather Lennon explained that she is currently working on a copy she made of the map and is indexing the lots and names on the markers for use by the Cemetery Department. She will complete the files for the Historical Commission based on what we have currently. The Commission strongly feels that the original map needs to be placed in an appropriate protective place and will pursue this with Kevin Bartlett, Supt. of the DPW. Heather Lennon told Sue Billings that Digital Commonwealth did not have the equipment required to copy such a fragile document.

The Commission members thanked Sue Billings for coming and encouraged her to volunteer for future projects she might find interesting.

Michael Sczerzen said he was appalled by the condition of the Old Settlers' Burial Yard with pine saplings growing everywhere and long unmown grass (it looked like 3 years growth to him). The Commission will send an email communication to Kevin Bartlett expressing our concern for the condition of the cemeteries.

Commission members would like to have information listed with the Town Clerk, the DPW, and on the website of the Commission and Police all with information about entering the Cemeteries and in the future lists of all the surveys that were done and by whom.

Town Green Signage: No report given

Accessions: Heather Lennon showed the Commission members the items brought in and the Members voted unanimously to accept Annette Morris' Girl Scout Memorabilia donated by Marge Lamy and brought into the office by Bob Lidstone.

From Robert Prescott Smith – Engraved metal death notice plaque and First Church picture, people not identified except for Bill Kilbourn.

A Philbin Chevy Key Chain from Leo Paquette

Michael Sczerzen – two plates: one of the Evangelical Congregation Church of Lancaster and the other First Church of Christ

Adjournment:

A motion was made at 7:30 p.m. by Joy Peach to adjourn and Mark Schryver seconded the motion. Michael Sczerzen called for the vote, and it was unanimous.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Monday, November 28 2016 at 6:30 p.m. It will be held at 131 Main Street in the LHC office.

Respectfully submitted, Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting