

**Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*May 26, 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 5:03 pm.

**Meeting ID: 814104930738 Passcode: 257095**

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of April 28, 2021 were approved unanimously on a motion made by Amy Brown, and seconded Karen Silverthorn.

**Memorial School Re-use Committee:**

Chairperson Lennon reported that Mark Schryver was appointed by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to serve as a member and Heather Lennon as the alternate to the above mentioned committee.

**Devens South Post Update:**

Joan Richards reported that the Conservation Commission (ConCom) moved the meeting with the representatives from Devens South Post to June.

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

1. Carriage House (formerly connected with Hawthorn Hill) – Heather Lennon reported she took some pictures of the surrounding area and met the new owners, Dan and Cynthia Loring, who plan to restore the building as a stable for horses and the land for pasture. Lennon further reported there are apparently some issues with the ConCom relating to wetland violations.
2. AUC Residential Properties – Some of these properties have been sold to developer Ray Safi. Also, the wing formerly attached to the “White House” at the corner of Main Street and E. George Hill Road is listed “For Sale”. No further information is available at this time.

3. AUC Core Campus and Thayer Conservatory of Music School – still pending
4. Perkins/RFK Merger --still pending
5. Former Lancaster Industrial School for Girls (LISG) campus currently owned by the Massachusetts Department of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance Department (DCAMM) --  
 Chairperson Lennon reported that representatives from DCAMM met with the BOS recently to begin discussion of plans to sell the property. LHC members would like to invite new BOS member Alix Turner to our next meeting along with the other two BOS members to discuss background information on this property and to present questions. It was agreed that LHC members should do some research before the next meeting to have a full understanding of what needs to be addressed.

#### **Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) Sign and Brochure Update:**

Heather Lennon reported that approximately thirty people attended the May 23, 2021 dedication ceremony for the Meeting House Hill sign. Sign fabricators Mary and Allan Zoll unveiled the sign and thanks went to LHS Webmaster Tim Kenney for his design of the self-guided brochure which was available as a handout. Freedom's Way (FW) and Lancaster's Cultural Council (LCC) were recognized for their grant awards. A small-scaled garrison house made by Dick Belanger was on display and used as a donation box.

#### **Cemetery Care:**

Chairperson Lennon reported on her recent meeting with the Town Administrator (TA) regarding hazardous tree removal in the Middle Cemetery (MC). Tree cutter Brian Favreau 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 reasonable and cost effective to do the job all at once.

#### **Award-Winning Plan on Affordable Housing on the Old Common:**

Heather Lennon reported that a team of students from MIT and Harvard University won a \$10,000.00 prize from a Boston bank for an affordable housing plan for the Old Common Lancaster Industrial School for Girls (LISG) campus. The plan had previously been emailed to LHC members. The LHC hopes that potential developers will review and possibly implement some of the elements of this award-winning design.

**Future Meeting Date:**

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 5:00 pm via ZOOM.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Richards and was seconded by Karen Silverthorn. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting concluded at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting.