

Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)
Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2021

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

Members Absent: Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

Guest: Martha Moore

Call to Order:

Chairperson Lennon called the meeting (*via ZOOM*) **ID: 810 3228 5852 Passcode: 007002**) to order at 5:01 pm. *

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

Chairperson Lennon corrected an error regarding the location of the “Brick Tavern”. Karen Silverthorn moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Marcia Jakubowicz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Survey & Planning Grant Application update:

Pre-application forms have been submitted and if the project is selected, MHC will invite the town to formally apply. Chairperson Lennon will write a letter to MHC Deputy Michael Steinitz requesting to be kept in the “communication loop” as the process moves forward. If all goes as planned, in the end, all seven of Lancaster’s historic cemeteries will have National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) status.

Significant property developments in Lancaster -updates:

Chairperson Lennon reported no further updates. Joan Richards mentioned that the present owners of the former AUC “White House AKA “Fairlawn” have greatly improved the façade visible from Main Street. Historic features are being retained.

Martha Moore was recognized next. She spoke of issues relating to developers who have removed trees and cleared land with little to no regard for town by-laws. Specifically, at 2038 Lunenburg Road, a developer removed trees and soil causing property damage with flooding due to heavy summer rains. Silt has filtered into a brook feeding into Ft. Pond. The Conservation Commission (CC) is working with a new architect and engineering company to address these issues. According to Martha, there are approximately eleven to twelve developments underway in Lancaster. Without a full time Planner or a Building Inspector, the work load has been challenging for the Planning Board (PB). There are a number of “cease and desist work” orders on the Hilltop Road and former “Roll on America “ property along Route 2. The LHC is very concerned that un-authorized changes will negatively impact the historic topography of the land in a number of areas.

The former Lancaster Industrial School for Girls (LISG) Campus:

Chairperson Lennon reported she had sent a letter to the Select Board (SB) following the LHC

tour of the campus in October. The LHC wants to encourage SB liaison, Alix Turner, to keep the project of transitioning the property to the town from the state on track.

Memorial School Re-use Committee:

Committee LHC appointees Heather Lennon and Mark Schryver have still received no information regarding any meetings (beyond the first) of this committee. Chairperson Lennon will look into this.

Town Green:

At this time, no handicapped ramp has been installed for the Netflix gazebo prop.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

Heather Lennon reported that SB were meeting tonight and would be voting on three nominations for the CPC. Karen Silverthorn has agreed to serve on the CPC as the LHC representative.

Sign and Marker Refurbishment Plan :

Heather Lennon reported that a number of historic signs need refurbishment. Amy Brown continues to list and identify historic markers needing work and relocation.

Barbara Stocker informed Heather that a tree has fallen and broken fencing at the Town Pound Historic Site on Langen Road. Mrs. Stocker said her family would repair the fence after the tree is removed. Her son Nolan had done restoration work on the Town Pound site for his Eagle Scout badge a couple years ago. The LHC appreciates the work done by the Stocker family.

Donation --

Karen Silverthorn continues to inventory numerous documents relating to renowned landscape architect Horace W. S. Cleveland donated to the LHC by Professor Emeritus William H. Tishler of the University of Wisconsin.

Possible Collaboration –

No further word has been received regarding a possible collaborative project, “Crossroads”, with the town of Berlin, which was mentioned last month.

Future Meeting Date and Adjournment:

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via ZOOM.

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Richards, seconded by Karen Silverthorn and it carried unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting.

*** (Note: This meeting was hacked and then resumed under a new ID. This incident will be reported appropriately.)**