

Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)

Meeting Minutes

March 30, 2022

via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 813 6261 2258

Passcode: 057760

Present: Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, and Karen Silverthorn

Absent: Amy Brown, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

Guest: Martha Moore

Chairperson Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and all members present identified themselves.

1. Review/Approval of LHC Minutes from 2-23-22: The minutes were approved unanimously as written on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz.

2. Historic Cemeteries NR Survey/Planning Grant:

Chairperson Lennon reported she has received notification from Michael Steinitz at the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) that our grant application has been accepted. Appropriate town officials have been notified and a letter of acceptance will be hand-carried to the MHC. Professional consultants will soon be sought and hired to document evaluate four historic cemeteries. LHC members were very pleased to hear the good news.

3. LHC Budget for FY 2023

The budget recently submitted to the Finance Committee (FinCom) by the LHC has been approved for FY2023. Also, after some recent expenditures were made for archival materials, we still have over \$1,8150.96 left in our Gift Fund per Chief Accountant Cheryl Gariepy. A motion to accept the recent expenditures was approved unanimously on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn.

4. Hazardous tree removal from historic cemeteries:

After several quotes for tree removal were recently submitted, they were reviewed by DPW Superintendent Kevin Bartlett and Finance Director Cheryl Gariepy. Ike Kilbourn was selected to tackle the project and has already begun the specified work. Positive feedback has already been received.

5. Significant Property Developments in Lancaster:

A. Remodeling work at the “White House” along Main Street has been halted per action of the Building Inspector.

B. Work at the former Thayer Conservatory of Music appears to have stalled.

It seems that the owners, in both cases above, have not made clear to the Building Inspector their specific intended uses for the buildings.

C. Department of Capital Assets Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) Campus:

It is hoped that the town of Lancaster will receive control of this property and be able to salvage some of the many historic buildings for mixed-use development. The buildings are in very poor condition due to neglect. The transfer of the property from state to town is reportedly in process.

6. Memorial School Re-use Committee:

No new updates.

7. Potential hanging of historical wall decor in the Prescott Building:

According to John Farnsworth, this semester’s opportunity for a project by Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) structural engineering students has been missed. This initiative will be revisited in the future.

8. Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

Karen Silverthorn reported that the CPC recently met with a Groton CPC member who shared examples of different projects they had reviewed and approved. The information relating to procedures was very helpful. Lancaster's CPC is currently preparing a budget to submit at the Annual Town Meeting for approval.

9. Accessions, announcements, correspondence, unanticipated items:

Accessions:

A. Richard Bartlett recently donated three antique family Bibles and other miscellaneous family information. The family lived in Lancaster in the early 1900s.

- B. J. Gregory donated a photo album containing several photos of Lancastrian scenes and a few loose family photos. The family was connected with the Sanitarium located in South Lancaster circa 1898-1901.

The donations were accepted unanimously on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz.

Announcements:

- A. Town meeting, at this point, is scheduled for May 8, 2022.
- B. Kate Hodges, formerly a Lancaster resident and currently employed in Concord, MA, has been selected as the new Town Administrator (TA). She will start her job in Lancaster on April 25, 2022.

9. Future meeting date and adjournment:

Next Meeting of LHC: Wed. April 27, 2022 on Zoom at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting