

Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)

Meeting Minutes

April 27, 2022 at 5 pm via ZOOM

Meeting ID: 853 4650 4751

Passcode: 311520

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

Members Absent: Joy Peach and Jean Watson

Guest: Martha Moore

Call to Order:

Chairperson Lennon called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm. All members present identified themselves.

Review/Approval of LHC Minutes from 3-30-22:

The minutes were approved unanimously as written on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz.

Historic Cemeteries NR Survey/Planning Grant:

Chairperson Lennon reported she is waiting for the letter in writing notification from Michael Steinitz at the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) outlining next steps now that our grant request has been accepted. Professional consultants will soon be sought and hired to carefully document and evaluate four of our historic cemeteries.

Hazardous tree removal from historic cemeteries:

Chairperson Lennon reported that Ike Kilbourn has received payment for his work in the Middle Cemetery (MC). Funds for the work in the Old Common Cemetery (OC) have yet to be paid. There will be funds for more hazardous tree removal in FY23. One of the trees in OC and the stump grinding will be paid by the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS). The LHC thanks the LHS for this generous gesture.

Significant property developments in Lancaster:

1. AUC Campus :

Chairperson Lennon has had no further information to share but Mark Schryver said the developers who have purchased the campus are in the process of refurbishing the Dairy Road post WW II housing. He said they seem to have reasonable intentions and are not simply housing “flippers”. LHC members were pleased to hear this.

2. Old Common Campus:

Transfer from the state to the Town is presently underway through the legislature in Boston.

3. Capital Group Project near Route 2:

Guest Martha Moore guest, mentioned that there have been several thorny issues surrounding this project including a dispute between the town and land owners which has yet to resolved. resolved. Interim Town Administrator Jeff Nutting advised that any related warrant articles for Annual Town Meeting not be brought forward until the Zoning Board report on the project is ready for presentation along with their recommendations.

Memorial School Re-use Committee “MSRC”:

Chairperson Frank Streeter has suspended indefinitely all meetings of the committee. So there is nothing to report at this time. We await information related to the questions which are holding up this committee moving forward.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

Karen Silverthorn reported that the group will be constructing a website soon for public information and application downloads. A Q&A public hearing will be scheduled soon to provide specific data. It is anticipated that the CPC will be ready to accept applications in the fall.

Exhibit Room:

Chairperson Lennon reported that when she went enter the room on Monday, April 25th, she found that the lock and been changed. A motion to “table” this agenda item was approved unanimously on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Amy Brown.

Accessions, and other business:

1. Chairperson Lennon reported that visitors from Virginia were in town to research and tour areas related to their Anderson family who had worked for Ruth Thayer at Hawthorn Hill. Heather gave them a tour of the cemeteries where they had relatives buried, and Martha Moore was able to give them a tour of the First Church the same day. They expressed thanks and purchased two Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) books on Lancaster.
2. Marcia Jakubowicz reported that she has receipts for items purchased for the Hosmer Dollhouse Project. and will submit an invoice shortly for reimbursement of \$336.54.

Announcements:

1. Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2022 at the Mary Rowlandson Elementary (MRE) School.
2. Kate Hodges, the newly hired Town Administrator (TA), started her job in Lancaster on April 25, 2022.
3. An LHS program on the Nashua River will be held May 22, 2022 at 2 pm. in the Thayer Memorial Library (TML). It is co-sponsored by Freedom's Way (FW) as part of their "Hidden Treasure's" month events. Following that, a sign unveiling denoting the "Meeting of the Waters" will take place on Center Bridge Road.

Adjournment and Future Meeting Date:

The next meeting of the LHC will be Wednesday, May 25, 2022 at 5 via ZOOM. Adjournment at 7:32 pm was approved unanimously on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Mark Schryver.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting