

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
February 27, 2017

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission was held on Monday, February 27, 2017 at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

Members Present:

Michael Sczerzen, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, and Karen Silverthorn Associate Member: Marcia Jakubowicz

Absent: Members: Jean Watson Mark Schryver, and Associate Member: Jay Moody

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

PRESCOTT BUILDING UPDATE:

Work has begun on the building. Interior lights are on inside round-the-clock. People have commented that it's costing money to keep the lights on, but it is necessary for safety and security purposes. John Anderson is the new Clerk of the Works. He was hired to keep a closer eye on the day-to-day operations to assure that all is done properly. Mary Bulso recommended him.

Noreen Piazza has asked LHC for a letter of support to go with the paperwork she is submitting to MPPH concerning a Mass Preservation Project grant for the Prescott Building. They are hoping to fund new storm windows.

An ad hoc meeting about the building is scheduled for March 15. The committee meets monthly for updates on the progress, etc.

Michael Sczerzen and Heather Lennon went to the fire station in Mendon last Wednesday and met with Andrew Jenrich, Director, Taft Public Library, to look at metal shelving that is being given away for free. Mary Bulso, Operations Project Manager for the Prescott Building. The shelving was originally from the Boston Public Library and used in the new Mendon library and there is shelving left and available. Heather took photos of it. The Mendon Police Department wants the shelving moved soon.

The LHC will pursue with town officials to make arrangements to have the shelving moved here because any of the town's departments may be able to use some of it. A tractor-trailer and professional movers would be needed to move it to Lancaster because there is so much. We will try to get a cost quote from the movers who had moved it to Mendon originally so that we can ask them what it would cost to move it to Lancaster. Michael Sczerzen and Heather Lennon will check about this tomorrow (Tuesday). We could also ask the Sterling movers (recommended by Mendon's library director. The When it comes time to assemble shelving in our new quarters, we have a recommended suggestion of a company Shrewsbury who does shelving assembly and could assemble the shelves on site.

Board of Selectmen Walter Sendrowski has been kept in the communication loop. The BOS, LHC, and town administration need to get on this right away because it's too good of a deal to pass up. We need to convince the BOS and FinCom to do this soon.

Approved LHC Meeting Minutes

CENTER BRIDGE ROAD TREE HEARING:

No date has been set yet with the Board of Selectmen for National Grid's updated application for a hearing. National Grid plans to have the work accomplished by fall. An arborist has marked the trees. Heather met with FinCom. She gave them a presentation on the condition of the trees in the cemeteries and then told them what is needed to be done. The committee members were shocked by the condition of the cemeteries. They have a budget to remove only four trees per year. Kevin Bartlett was invited to attend the meeting, but he was absent.

Cemeteries:

We are still waiting for word on whether or not the DPW can get local prison inmates to help clean up the cemeteries by removing the saplings that are invading the spaces and ruining graves.

Old Common Cemetery – it was suggested that perhaps the Historical Society could look into a fundraising campaign to help remove trees that are leaning dangerously.

It was suggested that when new saplings are planted in town, elm trees should be planted instead of just any type of tree. This should be mentioned to the Conservation Committee for when a tree is planted on Arbor Day.

Heather Lennon and Joan Richards continue to work on the documents needed to get the cemeteries on the National Register. Joan is putting together a chronological listing of all the work that LHC has tried to accomplish in the cemeteries over the years.

It was suggested that the PowerPoint presentation Heather has put together on the cemeteries be part of a public meeting about the plight of our cemeteries. It was also suggested that because high school and college students are often required to do community service as part of their school experience, some might be interested in working with cemetery cleanup.

ROWLANDSON ROCK:

There will be a dedication ceremony of Rowlandson Rock on Sunday, April 23. This ceremony will serve as a public thank you to the Kilbourn family for the gift of the land to the Town of Lancaster. Invitations to the ceremony and press releases must be sent to the BOS, DPW, Kilbourn family, etc.

Lancaster Conservation Committee accepted the gift of the land from the Kilbourn family, but no maintenance committee has been formed to assure that the area is kept up or kept clean. We may have to clean it up shortly before the dedication. The Lancaster Boy Scouts has put in a sand path to the rock in 2003.

TOWN CLOCK:

Mark Grasso spoke to Heather and said he recommended that the Town of Lancaster give the clock back to the Bulfinch Church. However, the church has never owned the clock and doesn't

want to own it. There's no real rush to get anything done on it because the town doesn't have any money budgeted to fix it.

SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board):

Nothing to report.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET FOR FY18:

All Lancaster town departments will be level-funded this year.

CORRESPONDENCE, ACCESSIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Email from a Thayer family relative. Marcia J. is working with this at Thayer Memorial Library. It concerns a scrapbook of photos at Leningrad. According to old reports, the library had packed it up in 1982 or 1983. Frank MacGrory (BOT TML) may know something about it.

MEETING MINUTES FROM FROM JANUARY 30 MEETING:

Joan Richards moved to accept them as corrected and Michael Sczerzen. seconded it. The committee accepted this unanimously.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, March 27.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Joan Richards moved to adjourn and Michael Sczerzen seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Silverthorn, Recorder for the Meeting