

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
March 26, 2018

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, March 26, 2018 at 6:30 pm at the LHC office at 131 Main Street in South Lancaster.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Jay Moody, Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, and Karen Silverthorn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Joan Richards and Jean Watson

GUESTS: none

CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of February 26, 2018 meeting, which had been previously sent out for review, were approved unanimously without correction on a motion made by Michael Sczerzen and seconded by Marcia Jakubowitz.

PRESCOTT BUILDING:

Lennon reported that after much delay, notices to terminate our rentals have been sent to both landlords, a mover has been selected and the long anticipated move into the LHC's new quarters is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, March 28, 2018. In addition to moving into the second floor of the Prescott Building, storage space has been allocated in the basement of the old Town Hall to accommodate ten extremely heavy fireproof filing cabinets as well as other miscellaneous three-dimensional pieces.

FY 19 BUDGET FOR THE LHC:

Heather Lennon reported that the LHC had not received any direct word from the Finance Director regarding the FY19 budget. After discussion, Jay Moody made motion to seek direct input through a meeting with the Finance Committee. This was seconded by Joy Peach and carried unanimously.

HISTORICAL HOUSE MARKER APPROVAL:

A request for historical house marker approval was made by Andrew and Lauren Homer who reside at 976 Main Street. Michael Sczerzen made a motion to approve it, it was seconded by Jay Moody and it carried unanimously.

ATHERTON & PONAKIN BRIDGES:

No new report given.

GRANT AWARD (through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB)) :

Michael Sczerzen reported that the sites proposed by the LHC for the placement of the proposed Revolutionary War Memorial Monument were rejected by both the American Legion and the Select Board. After discussion, Jay Moody made a motion to have a warrant article created requesting voters to approve a new and far more appropriate site in the Middle Cemetery where numerous Lancaster Revolutionary War veterans are actually buried. Marcia Jakubowicz seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES:

As a result of several snowstorms during the month of March, two more trees and several limbs and branches have fallen onto several markers in the Middle Cemetery. DPW Superintendent Kevin Bartlett has been notified and hopefully the trees and debris will be cleared soon.

TOWN GREEN BUILDING RE-USE PLANNING:

Jay Moody reported that the Select Board is working on a warrant article regarding building re-use for the upcoming Annual Town Meeting in May. An "Open House" is scheduled for April 11, 2018 in the Community Center to provide an opportunity for interested residents to gather information and ask questions.

ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

Lancaster Troop #1 Scout Leader, John Aurin, and Eagle Scout Nolan Stocker are working on site maintenance plans and will enact them when the winter weather subsides.

TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):

No new report given. Heather Lennon said she would contact George Franz at the First Church for a status report from the church's Standing Committee.

HISTORIC SIGN REFURBISHMENT:

No new report given.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A copy of the notification recently sent to Trivium Headmaster Schmitt indicated that the school's recent attempt to gain National Register status was rejected by the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The school cannot apply again for fifty years because a modern gymnasium was built too close to the original Chateau-styled country home.

ABNER POLLARD HOUSE REHABILITATION ON OLD COMMON ROAD

No report was given specifically on the house but it was reported that the Massachusetts Department of Capital Assets Management (DCAM) turned the heat off to the campus's brick cottage buildings. The lack of heat will, undoubtedly, accelerate the deterioration of the buildings.

ACCESSIONS:

A well-worn copy of the "Lancastrian Towns" has been received with the date June 26, 1967 and signed by the Board of Selectmen Robert S. Follansbee, Sr., Francis M. McCann, and James A. Roberts and Esther B. Macdonald, former Town Clerk (1935 – 1967) originally sent to George R. Hooker sent to LHC, Mr. Herbert "Pete" Morgan, Anniston, AL whose collection

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Karen Silverthorn reported that several programs are planned for the Thayer Memorial Library's "History Month" in May.
2. Author Lisa Brooks will speak on Mary Rowlandson at Nashoba Regional High School on April 5, 2018.
3. Jan Parent of Preservation Worcester will deliver an illustrated lecture for the Lancaster Historical Society on April 22, 2018.

DEMOLITIONS:

Heather Lennon reported that Debra Dennis, of the interim Building Inspector's office, has been cooperative about informing the LHC of plans for upcoming demolitions in Lancaster. Three

recently planned for are at: 157 Sterling Rd. 122 Hilltop Rd. and 134 Packard St. Hopefully pictures for the historical record can be taken before the structures come down.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:

Michael Sczerzen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. It was seconded by Jay Moody, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC “Work Room” in the Prescott Building.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lennon, Recorder for the Meeting