

MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
March 4, 2019

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, March 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC office on the upper level of the Prescott Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Karen Silverthorn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Brown, Jay Moody, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, Jean Watson

GUEST: Linnea Lakin Servey

CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes of the January 28, 2019 meeting were read and corrected. A motion to accept them as corrected was made by Joy Peach. It was seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz, a vote was taken and it carried unanimously

GOODRIDGE BROOK 40B PROPOSAL:

Heather Lennon gave an update on recent meetings held by the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the Board of Selectmen (BOS). LHC members remain very concerned about the scope of the project and related issues of safety, adequate water supply and sewerage service if this project gets approved. Further, wetland issues do not appear to have been satisfactorily addressed.

HOUSING PRODUCTION PLAN:

The BOS has approved a Housing Production Plan recently created by a concerned citizen's group. It had previously been approved by the Planning Board and will now be submitted to the state.

Questions have been raised about listing the long vacant Memorial School as potential future housing. It is thought by some that the school, built in 1956-7, was in violation of a restriction put on the property previously by the donor, Mrs. Pauline Revere Thayer. She had specified that the property be used for *recreational purposes only*. Therefore, it appears that any type of housing would not be allowed. It was suggested that the building be razed and the property once again be used strictly for recreational purposes.

HAWTHORN HILL:

Heather Lennon reported that she met with the property caretakers who gave her a tour of the mansion. It is hoped that a tour can be arranged of the garden ruins once the snow is gone. The property is currently under "agreement" and any future tours would have to be cleared with the owner through the real estate agent. Discussion followed regarding the history of the mansion and LHC members hope the new owner will preserve and/ restore the mansion rather than tear it down. An inventory Form B for the building is almost ready to be submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) so they can have information on the estate in their files.

EXHIBIT ROOM:

Members discussed plans for the dollhouses and the furnishings. It is clear that there is still much to be done before an "Open House" is scheduled. The Hosmer Project is still a work in progress. So far, Chris Brown hired to do some cleaning and restoration on Parsons/Chandler dollhouse, has produced some great results.

Karen Silverthorn reported that Jeff, of the Drawbridge Puppet Theater, has offered some puppets used by Herbert Hosmer to the Thayer Memorial Library (TML). The children's librarian has, in turn, offered some to the LHC. Karen agreed to work out the details of the transfer.

DISPLAY CASES:

Heather Lennon provided information on the features and cost for two matching display cases for the exhibit room. Joan Richards made a motion that the LHC approve purchasing them through W.B. Mason who has a contract with the town. The motion was seconded by Karen Silverthorn, a vote was taken and it carried unanimously. Heather Lennon will place the order. Gift fund money is available to cover the cost. Further, a descendant of Ralph Houghton had previously offered provide a donation to be used as needed. Heather will contact him with the details to see if he is still interested.

PROJECT FOOTSTONE:

Joan Richards mentioned that the Shirley Historical Society will present a program pertaining to gravestone cleaning on March 9th at 2:00 p.m. at their headquarters. She and Marcia Jakubowicz plan to attend.

HISTORIC MARKERS:

Heather Lennon mentioned that the boulder in South Lancaster on the corner of East George Hill Road and Main Street marking the John Prescott Rye Field has been dislodged by a snow plow. She will contact DPW Superintendent Kevin Bartlett. After the snow is gone, the boulder needs to be resituated in such a way as to prevent future damage.

TOWN GREEN:

Linnea Lakin Servey informed the LHC that she is planning to prepare a citizens' petition for a Warrant Article for the Annual Town Meeting related to moving the Netflix gazebo off the Town Green. She will keep us informed regarding her progress.

HISTORIC PANELS:

Heather Lennon reported that three panels which had been on loan to the TML since 2003 were returned and are now in storage. They were said to be too heavy to hang in the Prescott Building so they have been offered back to the TML. Library Trustees will discuss this at their next meeting per director Joe Mule.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

March 25, 2019 and April 29, 2019

Note: No meeting was held in February due to a posting error.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was by made by Joan Richards at 7:40 pm. Karen Silverthorn seconded the motion, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the meeting.