

## **Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)**

Meeting Minutes  
*May 25, 2022 via ZOOM*

### **Present:**

Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joan Richards, and Karen Silverthorn

### **Absent:**

Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, Jean Watson

### **Guests:**

None

### **Call to Order:**

Chairperson Lennon called the meeting to order on Zoom ID 847 4420 3888 passcode: 025020 at 5:05 p.m.

### **Approval of LHC Minutes:**

Karen Silverthorn moved that the meeting minutes of April 27, 2022, be approved as printed, and Amy Brown seconded the motion. Chairperson Lennon called for the vote and it carried unanimously.

Marcia Jakubowicz moved that the LHC Special Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2022, be approved as printed. Karen Silverthorn seconded the motion and it also carried unanimously.

Chairperson Lennon reported that a copy of the May 9, 2022 Special LHC meeting minutes was sent to Town Administrator (TA) Kate Hodges by the May 13, 2022 deadline. It was understood that the final document from the town's response on the 40B was to be sent to the Massachusetts Housing Authority (MHA) by May 27, 2022.

### **Reappointments:**

Reappointment: Heather Lennon reported the reappointments of Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson were approved by the Select Board (SB) on May 16, 2022. Letters have been mailed to those LHC members to remind them to get sworn in with the Town Clerk. Joan Richards mentioned she had

received her letter. Heather Lennon will check with the other members regarding their need to be sworn in by June 30, 2022.

### **New Appointment Recommendation:**

Lancaster resident Martha Moore has submitted a letter to the SB seeking an appointment as an LHC associate member. Discussion followed with members in favor of having her appointed on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn. It carried unanimously. A recommendation letter will be sent to the SB for their approval.

### **Historic Cemeteries NR Survey/Planning grant:**

Chairperson Lennon reported she had attended a Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) workshop on ZOOM on May 24, 2022. Directions and guidelines were given with target dates to be followed pertaining to the LHC's recently approved grant award. Heather is the designated Lancaster grant administrator. She will work with the town's TA, and Finance Director to see that all the steps are accomplished in a timely manner to get the last four historic cemeteries on the NRHP. This process will take over a year.

### **Significant property developments in Lancaster:**

Heather Lennon said she has not received any official information regarding new developments. Karen Silverthorn mentioned that the AUC former history department building on Prescott Street has boarded up windows. Amy Brown added that an illegal entrance to the building occurred and police responded. Increased surveillance has apparently been stepped up in the area.

### **Memorial School Re-use Committee:**

Heather Lennon reported that a recently posted meeting did not take place due to technical difficulties. No further information is available.

### **Civic Historic District:**

Chairperson Lennon suggested that getting the Town Green declared a Civic Historic District might be a good way to "Preserve the Best to Last". She will send members information on this and start discussion at the monthly meeting in June.

The complication of a wrong map having been submitted to the State of MA with a previous grant application on behalf of the Recreation Committee (RC) resulted in a very unfortunate mistake listing the RC as overseers of the Town Green. This error will result in a complicated process to straighten out; not only with the MA state agencies involved but also the National Park Service.

### **Preservation Committee (CPC):**

Karen Silverthorn reported that the CPC is progressing well. The town website will have a section for the CPC. Applications for projects will be available for submission to them with a December 15, 2022 deadline. The LHC will discuss application ideas at the June meeting. Joan Richards suggested that cleaning and putting fallen grave markers upright would be a worthy project.

### **Exhibit Room:**

Heather Lennon reported that the invitation for the newly hired TA to attend tonight's meeting conflicted with her schedule. The consensus of the LHC is that the TA be requested to attend our June meeting. If that does not fit the TA's schedule, the LHC will adjust their meeting time so she can attend. LHC members discussed the twenty-page timeline reflecting *our very significant involvement* with the Prescott Building project. It was suggested that a copy be sent to Kate Hodges in advance of the LHC's June meeting so she can be informed of the history. It is *vitaly important to resolve the issue* regarding the abrupt denial of full access to the Exhibit Room as we have an Open House scheduled that was delayed due to the COVID pandemic.

### **Accessions:**

Heather Lennon reported that the last six leather-bound volumes of a twelve volume set books on Luther Burbank have recently been donated to the Lancaster Historical Society. The Luther Burbank Middle School donated these.

### **Adjournment and Future Meeting Date:**

A motion to adjourn at 5:55 pm carried unanimously on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn. The next monthly meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 5 pm..

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the LHC meeting