

**LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*6-29-22 via ZOOM*

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm  
 Zoom ID 850 2865 1999 passcode: 335465

**Approval of LHC Minutes:** Karen Silverthorne moved that the meeting Minutes of May 25, 2022 be approved as corrected and Joan Richards seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

**Members Present:**

Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorn

**Members Absent:**

Joy Peach, Jean Watson

**Guests:**

Sue Billings, Jay Moody

**Reappointments:**

Heather Lennon reported that Joan Richards has been sworn in by the Town Clerk's office and Mark Schryver plans to go into the office tomorrow to be sworn in. Heather Lennon spoke to the Asst. Town Clerk that Joy Peach is in a rehabilitation facility near her daughter in Westfield, Mass for a medical issue. Also, Jean Watson is experiencing medical challenges and will not be able to come into the Prescott Bldg. to be sworn in. The Town Clerk will pursue this matter and get back to Chairperson Lennon.

**Withdrawal:** It was also reported that Martha Moore withdrew from her appointment as an Associate Member to the LHC stating a priority to pursue her many other interests. A letter of thanks from the LHC to thank her for the volunteer time she provided, especially with the Herbert Hosmer Jr. project, will be sent. The LHC wishes her well.

**Memorial School Re-Use Committee (MSRC):**

Chairperson Lennon reported that a meeting of the re-activated committee will be meeting this week in the Dexter Room of Thayer Memorial Library and a new chair, most likely Dan Lapen, will replace Frank Streeter who has accepted a position on the Planning Board. Mark Schryver indicated he may be able to attend future meetings if they fit into his schedule. Heather Lennon hopes to be able to attend the next meeting of the MSRC.

**Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) Survey/Planning grant:**

Chairperson Lennon reported that Kate Hodges has read and approved the "Scope of Work" for the grant. The next step is to send Ben Haley at MHC a draft of our "Request for Quotations". Once he approves it, bids are solicited. After thirty days, the lowest fully qualified bidder will be selected for the job.

**Hazardous Cemetery Tree Removal:**

Heather Lennon reported that the FY23 budget includes funds for tree removal. Bids will be pursued in cooperation with Kevin Bartlett and Cheryl Gariepy.

**Significant property developments in Lancaster:**

Nothing new was reported.

**Fire Inspection of LHC Rooms in the Prescott Bldg.:**

Heather Lennon reported that compliance with the above mentioned report has been accomplished with only a few more items needing to be moved with help from the facilities staff.

**Panels Project:**

Heather Lennon reported that Kate Hodges is favorable to having a report on the weight bearing strength of the walls in the PB done. At some future time, John Farnsworth who has contacts at Worcester Polytechnical Institute (WPI), will again pursue this. The hanging of a large hand-carved wooden Town Seal may also be considered

**Air Quality Issues in Storage Areas:**

Jay Moody reported that he has sought advice from Lancaster resident Don Chaisson about humidity issues in the LHC storage areas in the 1908 Town Hall. It is hoped that Kate Hodges will follow Chaisson's recommendations and order the appropriate equipment needed to effectively remediate the problem.

**Exhibit Room:**

Heather Lennon reported that Kate Hodges informed her that the temporary Human Resources (HR) employee's last day with the town will be June 30, 2022. It appears that the Exhibit Room will be given back for the exclusive use of the LHC. Members were pleased to hear that and will resume plans for an "Open House" for the Hosmer Collection.

**Community Preservation Committee (CPC):**

Karen Silverthorn reported the CPC had not met since our last meeting but that they have their assignments and are working toward the timetable for applications to be filed for consideration in December, 2022. The LHC will soon discuss possible projects in addition to the repair and refurbishment of damaged cemetery markers in our historical cemeteries.

**Accessions and other Announcements:**

1. Heather Lennon reported that Liz Narbonne at 724 Main Street has donated two items to the Lancaster Historical Society: (1) a large rolled wall map of Worcester County, and, (2) a day diary dated 1867 having belonged to a man named Merrick
2. Amy Brown mentioned a Lancaster cable TV video by Victoria Straitt about the 1912 Lancaster Pageant aired on Channel 99.
3. Heather Lennon said Freedom's Way is currently planning for events to celebrate our country's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary coming up in a couple years. Details will follow in the future.

4. Heather mentioned for the record the volunteer work done by Martha Moore has been much appreciated.
5. Joan Richards mentioned the water troughs look great, well designed and decorated for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The LHC appreciates the “Trough Tenders” taking on this task each season.

**Future Meeting Date:**

No meeting is scheduled for July 2022. The next meeting is scheduled for August 31, 2022 at 5 pm via Zoom.

**Adjournment:**

Mark Schryver made motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:29 pm. It was seconded by Joan Richards and carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the meeting