

Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)

Meeting Minutes

8-31-2022

via ZOOM

ID:890 0579 3758

Password: 962339

Present:

Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Joan Richards and Karen Silverthorn

Absent:

Amy Brown, Joy Peach, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

Guests:

Jay Moody, Linnea Servey

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 pm by Chairperson Lennon.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the June 29, 2022 LHC Minutes were approved as printed unanimously on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded Joan Richards.

Members Update:

It has been observed that Associate Member Jean Watson's house is currently for sale which may indicate a move away from Lancaster. Joy Peach continues to reside in a "Senior Living" facility in Westfield, MA.

Survey & Planning Grant for Four Historic Cemeteries:

Chairperson Lennon reported that so far, no one has applied to be considered to do this work. There have been two responses declining the offer. The deadline to submit a proposal is September 14, 2022. An update will be provided at our next meeting.

Budget for the LHC:

Our Town Administrator (TA) has indicated that in FY 2024, the LHC will *once again* have their own budget rather than having their allocated funds included under those of the Select Board (SB). Members were happy to hear this.

Hazardous Tree Cutting Funds:

Chairperson Lennon reported that she is still trying to clear up a misunderstanding

about the money thought to be set aside this FY for tree cutting. In the opinion of the TA and LHC members, to finish the cuttings in the Middle Cemetery (MC) would be the most cost effective way to proceed! Further clear communication has been lacking between the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and the LHC. Getting this matter cleared up will be pursued.

Significant Property Developments in Lancaster:

- A. It has been reported that the most recent potential sale of the AUC campus has “fallen through”.
- B. An estate sale was held on August 19, 20 and 21, 2022 at the former John E. Thayer “JET” mansion. Chairperson Lennon will write and send a letter to the current owner, Lisa Chiulli Lay, seeking permission to go in and take photos for our historical archives once the rooms are entirely cleared of furnishings.
- C. Memorial School Reuse Committee - no report given.
- D. The Evangelical Congregational Church (ECC) has recently reorganized as the “Mission of Grace” church with a new pastor.

Panels Project:

John Farnsworth has indicated that he will once again try to arrange for a team of Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) engineering students to take on the project of testing the wall strength in the Prescott Building (PB) so three large historic panels can be safely hung.

Exhibit Room :

The LHC office will be open as many as three days a week after Labor Day until the Exhibit Room is completely ready for the scheduled “Open House” on Sunday, October 2, 2022

Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

Chairperson Lennon welcomed Linnea Servey who did screen-sharing of a spreadsheet and explained the procedures and amounts available to be applied for historical projects. The forms for application should be available in December.

Recent Donations to the LHC and the Lancaster Historical Society:

1. Cheryl Sendrowski from the Evangelical Congregational Church (EDD), now “Mission of Grace” Church, donated two books related to the church written by Jean Watson as well as a commemorative china plate to the LHC.

2. Gretchen Nichol of Mendon, VT donated a wooden “Breck” wooden egg box to the LHS.

LHC and LHS members accepted the donations on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn. Thank you letters have been sent.

Adjournment and Next Meeting Date:

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 pm on motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn which passed unanimously. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 5 pm via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the meeting