

Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2022
via ZOOM

Present:

Heather Lennon, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorn

Absent: Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, and Jean Watson

Guests: Judith Elwell. Jay Moody

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by Chairperson Lennon

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the September 28, 2022 meeting were reviewed and one spacing error was corrected. The minutes were then approved unanimously as corrected on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn.

Appointments:

Chairperson Lennon reported that she has notified the Town Administrator (TA) and the Executive Assistant (EA) of the death of Joy Peach on September 23, 2022. She then introduced Judy Elwell to LHC members as a potential new member. Judy has recently started volunteering in the office and is a qualified and experienced candidate. Joan Richards made a motion, seconded by Mark Schryver that the LHC inform the Select Board (SB) of our recommended candidate. The motion carried unanimously. Hopefully, Judy will send the SB a letter of interest soon to fill the vacancy left by Joy's death.

Historic Cemeteries NR Survey/Planning Grant:

Chairperson Lennon reported that the Round 2 of the Request for Quotations (RFQ) will end on November 2, 2022. It is hoped that at least one consulting group will respond by then. An update will be given at the November meeting.

Future Budgeting for LHC and Regarding Hazardous Tree Removal :

- A. Heather Lennon reported that when the Finance Committee (FinCom) works on budgeting for the new Fiscal Year (FY), the LHC will submit a proposed budget of \$2,000.00 for their consideration. It is felt that the procedure currently in place needs improvement for better management of and accounting for funds.
- B. Chairperson Lennon said she has spoken with the owner of a local tree removal company regarding continued hazardous tree removal in the Middle Cemetery (MC). She believes the details will be worked out soon to finish the next phase of the ongoing upgrade plan.

United States Semiquincentennial in 2026 - Local Plan

A planning group needs to be formed to coordinate a town celebration for 2026 which is the 250th anniversary year for the signing of the Declarations of Independence. More details are to come on the project.

Significant Property Development in Lancaster:

A. Former John Eliot Thayer (JET) estate --

Lisa Chuilli Lay, who has inherited her father's estate on George Hill after his death, has consented to allow the LHC to come in and photograph the mansion once it has been cleaned out. More details will follow.

B. Atlantic Union College properties --

Mark Schryver reported that nothing definite is known about the future of the remaining campus buildings since the Safi Brothers pulled out. Rumors are that the two dormitories are to be demolished.

Panel Project:

John Farnsworth plans to make an in-person visit to his contacts at WPI in Worcester, MA to arrange for some structural engineering students to evaluate the wall strength of key spots in the Prescott Building for the hanging of three finely rendered historical panels fabricated for the town's 350th celebration in 2003. It is hoped the work can be done pro bono.

Exhibit Room:

The Hosmer Open House held in the Prescott Building on October 2, 2022 was well attended and the LHS hopes to be able to schedule dates for local school children and their teachers to view the exhibits. Also, future tours may be offered to local Scout troops.

Community Preservation Committee (CPC):

Karen Silverthorn reported that applications for consideration of projects are due December 15, 2022. Chairperson Lennon listed possible projects for consideration as the Middle Cemetery, 1908 Town Hall, and, the Thayer Bird Museum and Founder's Hall on the former AUC campus. These possibilities will be considered with a follow-up progress report at the November meeting.

Other Business/Announcements:

A. The next program of the LHS will be held at 2 pm on November 13th at the Thayer Memorial Library. It will be on the "History of Fort Devens and Lancaster's South Post".

B. Changing the hour for meeting times was discussed. LHC members voted unanimously to change the hour of meeting from 5 pm to 6 pm on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Mark Schryver.

Adjournment:

Joan Richards moved that the meeting be adjourned at 5:38 pm. Mark Schryver seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next meeting of the LHC will take place on Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at **6 pm.** via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting