

Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)
Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2022 via ZOOM

Present:

Amy Brown, Judy Elwell, Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Joan Richards, Karen Silverthorn

Absent:

Mark Schryver, Jean Watson

Guests:

Sharon Bouchard and Brenda Morse, members of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), John Joslyn, Jr., Chapter

Call to Order:

Chairperson Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm. Participants identified themselves with their names and addresses.

Review & Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from 10-26-22 were approved unanimously as corrected on a motion made by Marcia Jakubowicz and seconded by Judy Elwell.

Appointments:

Chairperson Heather Lennon officially introduced Judy Elwell as the newest full member replacing Joy Peach who passed away on September 23, 2022.

Historic Cemeteries NR Survey/Planning Grant:

Chairperson Lennon reported that details are being finalized for a sub-contract between the Town of Lancaster and Public Archaeology Laboratory in Pawtucket, RI (the consultants who will do the hands-on survey work).) If all goes according to the schedule, the work should be completed no later than August, 2023.

Future budgeting for LHC & Hazardous Tree Removal :

Chairperson Lennon reported she had met with Town Administrator (TA) Kate Hodges and she recommended that the LHC meet with the DPW Commissioners and DPW Superintendent Kevin Bartlett to discuss budgeting exclusively for cemetery tree removal. This will be addressed at a future time.

Local plan for Semiquincentennial in 2026:

Heather Lennon and Karen Silverthorn recently met with Patrice Todisco and Desiree Demski-Hamlin of Freedom's Way (FW) via ZOOM regarding possible cooperation in a project through a grant award to restore stones in the Middle Cemetery (MC). Quotations for the cost of doing this work using professional specialists will be pursued and reported on in the near future. Guests Sharon Bouchard and Brenda Morse of the DAR John Joslyn, Jr. Chapter also joined in the discussion and indicated interest in working with the LHC on this project. This also will be pursued moving forward.

Significant property developments in Lancaster:

- A. The John Eliot Thayer II estate is currently for sale and Chairperson Lennon has been working with the current owner to gather pictures of the interior.
- B. Two residential structures formerly belonging to Atlantic Union College (AUC) and near the intersection of Main Street and Sterling Road in South Lancaster are being restored for future occupancy.
- C. The circa 1717 antique saltbox house at 2121 Main Street on Ballard Hill is being restored after having been in dilapidated condition. This was the former residence of the late Barbara Durling, a DAR member.

Historical Panels Project:

No new information was presented. Plans for this have been discussed in previous meetings.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Projects:

Potential projects were discussed and it was agreed that both the Thayer Bird Museum and the 1908 Town Hall would be overly ambitious at this point and should not be pursued with this first round of funding. Instead, upgrades to the MC will be the focus of our efforts.

Announcements:

A Christmas luncheon at the College Town Inn at Four Corners is scheduled for 12 noon on Tuesday, December 13, 2022 for LHC/LHS members and friends. Please let Heather know if you can attend.

Future meeting date and adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm on a motion made by Judy Elwell and seconded by Joan Richards. It carried unanimously. The next monthly meeting of the LHC is scheduled for December 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Minutes