

**Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
*February 22, 2023 via ZOOM*

**Present:**

Judy Elwell, Sandy Foster, Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorn

**Absent:**

Amy Brown, Jean Watson

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Participants identified themselves with their names and addresses.

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

Meeting Minutes from 1-23-23 were approved unanimously as written on a motion made by Judy Elwell, and seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz.

**Review and Approval of Annual Report for 2022:**

The report written from the LHC for the Annual Town Report 2022 was reviewed and approved as corrected on a motion made by Judy Elwell and seconded by Mark Schryver. It will next be submitted to the Town Clerk and Executive Secretary.

**National Register of Historical Places (NRHP) Survey and Planning Grant:**

Chairperson Lennon, the town's "Grant Coordinator" for this project, reported that she has recently spoken with Melissa Andrade of the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL). Melissa said that some adjustments will need to be made to the project scheduling. Bad weather has cut back on opportunities to do the necessary field work.

**Bicentennial Event -- Lafayette's Farewell Tour -- September 3, 2024**

A partnership with the Thayer Memorial Library (TML) will be pursued.

**Local Plan for the Semiquincentennial in 2026:**

Heather Lennon reported that the plans are already underway to upgrade the Middle Cemetery in anticipation of a special event to be held there to honor our Revolutionary War Veterans resting there.

**Community Preservation Act (CPA) Project:**

Chairperson Lennon reported that it seems likely that the application the LHC submitted to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) in January will be approved. An update will be provided next month.

### **Significant Property Developments in Lancaster:**

- A. It has been reported that the former Atlantic Union College (AUC) core campus is no longer for sale but will operate as “hub” for educational activities. This information needs to be verified.
- B. The owners of the “Hawthorn Hill” estate on George Hill have recently been sent information on getting their property listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP). They have not yet responded.
- C. At this time, the future of the Memorial School is still undecided. Town residents remain divided on the issue and it will require further careful planning before any funds are spent. Chairperson Lennon expressed the opinion that, per her personal study of the documents relating to Pauline Thayer’s Will Codicil, the school never should have been built on that parcel of land at all.

### **Historic Panels Project:**

Chairperson Lennon stated that she will make some calls to locate a structural engineer to come to the Prescott Building to test the wall strength for the hanging of three historic wall panels to enhance the interior look of the place. After that, arrangements will be made to get the panels hung.

### **Accessions:**

Frank Streeter has recently donated some record books that were kept by members of the Thayer family from earlier generations.

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

Adjournment at 6:30 pm was approved unanimously on a motion made by Judy Elwell and seconded by Mark Schryver.

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at 6:00 pm via ZOOM.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lennon, Chair