

LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
April 30, 2018

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, April 30, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Trustees Room at the Thayer Memorial Library (TML).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Jay Moody, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Szczerzen, and Karen Silverthorn

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amy Brown, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

PRESCOTT BUILDING (PB):

Heather Lennon reported that the move from 131 Main Street and 65 Plain St. in Clinton (storage) on March 28 and 29, 2018, for the most part, went smoothly.

The new reception desk, ordered through W.B. Mason, arrived and was installed on April 25, 2018.

The Herbert Hosmer dollhouses, previously stored in the Thayer Memorial Library (TML), were transported to the PB on April 26, 2018 by a team from Hemenway & Associates of West Boylston, MA. They were put into the "Exhibit Room" and will soon become part of a special display.

Also on April 26, 2018 a corkboard was put over the window on the multi-purpose meeting room side the wall in the PB to block the opening. LHC members discussed what would make an appropriate cover for the opening on the LHC office side of the wall. The window had specifically been installed as part of the original design for the two adjoining rooms.

Further discussion continued regarding the LHC's unanticipated, but now apparent, limited access to the Prescott Building (PB) and the Old Town Hall (OTH).

FINANCE REPORT:

Joan Richards reported having requested information from the assistant to the town accountant regarding the amount remaining in the LHC FY18 budget. No response has been received to date. Therefore, the ordering of needed supplies is on hold.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL & HISTORIC CEMETERY CLEAN-UP:

Heather Lennon reported that a new location has been suggested for the Revolutionary War Memorial. This new location, considered by the LHC to be more appropriate, is

toward the front of the Middle Cemetery (MC) where the remains of no less than thirty-seven Revolutionary War veterans are buried. The necessary approvals from the grant-giving organization are being sought through the Lancaster Town Administrator (TA) Orlando Pacheco.

Heather Lennon also reported that she met with DPW superintendent Kevin Bartlett, TA Pacheco, Brian Favreau of the tree removal company, and, Michael Sczerzen to take a preliminary look at the trees to be removed from the site.

LHC members discussed prioritizing the hazardous tree removal at the MC. It is anticipated that the actual work will be accomplished soon using funds approved specifically for this purpose in the current year's town budget.

Also regarding trees

A. Discussion regarding the recent planting of trees at Ward Park near the South Fire Station took place with LHC members expressing the opinion that the trees were inappropriate for the location. No one had heard anything about this prior to the planting.

B. LHC members were pleased to see that the stumps of the diseased trees formerly taken down had been removed from the front of the Town Green. Some members, however, were disappointed that appropriate trees were not planted to replace those removed.

TOWN CLOCK INSURANCE:

Heather Lennon reported that John Brisette of Braley-Wellington Insurers of Worcester, MA called her regarding the value of town clock. She suggested contacting clock-winder John Spencer at the First Church of Christ, Lancaster for information. TA Pacheco has been informed of this and an update will be given at a later time.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of March 26, 2018 were read and corrections were made. Michael Sczerzen moved that they be approved as corrected. Jay Moody seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The corrected minutes will be sent to the Town Clerk for posting.

ATHERTON & PONAKIN BRIDGES:

No report given.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN:

Through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):

Several months ago, Heather Lennon was given to understand (through TA Pacheco) that Town Clerk Mary de Alderete and TML Director Joe Mule were going to go seminars on Disaster Planning. The LHC now needs to find out what needs to be added the Collection Management Plan regarding this.

ROWLANDSON ROCK & TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

No report given.

ABNER POLLARD HOUSE REHABILITATION ON OLD COMMON ROAD:

No report given.

CORRESPONDENCE:

In response to a proposal to build two hundred low income (40B) housing units in the southwestern part of Lancaster, LHC officers sent Town Planner Noreen Piazza a letter stating that, if built, the housing project would go into an area formerly traversed by indigenous people. They travelled through on a well-established path between their settlements in Lancaster and Sterling. An archeological excavation might very well uncover remnants of their habitation. A copy of the letter sent is on file in the LHC office.

ACCESSIONS:

- A. Henry Paszko donated an historic marker for the 1819 Fisher's Inn (which was demolished in 2005).
- B. Jocelyn Fay donated Luther Burbank memorabilia and a framed coachlace sample.
- C. Michael Sczerzen donated several miscellaneous items of Lancastriana.
- D. Kathleen Connery Fitzgibbons donated a black antique ladies outfit and hat formerly belonging to Nina Rowell.

All of the above items were gladly accepted by the LHC and letters of thanks will be sent to the donors.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Karen Silverthorn reported again that May is "Hidden Treasures" month at the TML. She reviewed the upcoming events and the schedule is also available on the library website.

ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:

Joan Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. It was seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz, a vote was called for, and it carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, May 14, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the Dexter Room at the Thayer Memorial Library
Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting