



Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC)
Meeting Minutes
May 31, 2023 - hybrid style
LHC Office in the Prescott Building at 7 pm

Present:

Amy Brown, Judy Elwell, Sandy Foster, Heather Lennon, Marcia Jakubowicz, Karen Silverthorn

Absent: Marl Schryver, Jean Watson

Guests: Jay Moody

Call to Order:

Chairperson Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. Participants identified themselves with their names and addresses.

Review and Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from 4-26-23 were approved unanimously on a motion made by Sandy Foster and seconded by Judy Elwell.

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

Chairperson Lennon, the town’s “Grant Coordinator” for this project, reported that the team from Public Archaeology Laboratories (PAL) in RI has now finished “Phase 1” of their work. “Phase 2” should be completed in July and Phase 3 in August of 2023. The PAL consultants are doing a fine job.

Hazardous Cemetery Tree Removal

Chairperson Lennon has checked with Finance Committee member Dick Trussell and there should be money available in the new Fiscal Year beginning on July 1, 2023 to complete the job in the southeast corner of the Middle Cemetery (MC) where there are six to twelve trees remaining to be cut and cleared. Ike Kilbourn will visit the MC with Heather in early June to do an estimate for removal of the remaining hazardous trees. He will also provide a separate estimate for stump grinding as there are numerous root-ridden and unsightly stumps needing removal.

Significant Property Developments in Lancaster:

13 Neck Road

Chairperson Lennon reported on a site visit that took place on May 23, 2023 at 11 am.. About 34 persons attended including abutters, neighbors, concerned citizens, town officials, a Massachusetts Housing official as well as Mr. John Cherubini, his lawyer and consultants. Many in the group expressed concerns such as high density on the half acre parcel, traffic safety, lack of adequate parking spaces, lack of play space for children and insufficient sewerage. Some gave credit to the project design as an attempt to fit into the look of the neighborhood.

After discussion, LHC members (who were sent copies of the concept plans for the 11 condos in advance) were encouraged to send public comment in to the Town Planner, Jasmine Farinacci

and the Town Administrator Kate Hodges by June 5, 2023. Many of the concerns mentioned at the site visit *were echoed* by LHC members. Further, it appears that the very historic character and location of the neighborhood will *carry very little weight* when decisions are made moving forward.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Project:

Chairperson Lennon reported that the application for a total assessment of the Middle Cemetery previously submitted to the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) has been approved by voters at the Annual Town Meeting on May 3, 2023. Kate Hodges as the town's procurement officer must now create a formal Request for Quotations (RFQ) to do the actual work. She told Heather that while the matter may be of high importance to the LHC, she is honestly just too busy at this time to address it until the beginning of the new FY on July 1, 2023.

Historic Panels Project:

When Chairperson Lennon asked John Farnsworth about this project on May 18, 2023, he responded by saying "Patience".

Lafayette's Farewell Tour Anniversary September 3, 2024:

A positive response for participation has been received from:

1. Middlesex County Volunteers Fifes & Drums
2. Boxborough District Minutemen Company
3. State Senator John Cronin
4. State Representative Meghan Kilcoyne

Correspondence:

Chairperson Lennon said she had written and was about to send a thank you letter from the LHC to Mr. Marlon Covey of Sterling who has voluntarily been mowing the grassy triangle of land at the intersection of Sterling and Deershorn Roads for the last six to eight years. LHC members approved of this.

Adjournment and Future Meeting Date:

Adjournment, which place at 7:52 pm., was approved unanimously on a motion made by Judy Elwell and seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz.

The next meeting of the LHC is scheduled for Wednesday, June 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm in the LHC office in the Prescott Building with a hybrid feature for those who wish to attend remotely via ZOOM.

Please note: The LHC *will not meet* during the month of July.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lennon, Chairperson