

MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
March 27, 2017

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, March 27, 2017 at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Lennon, Mark Schryver, Michael Sczerzen, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, and

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: Marcia Jakubowicz and Jay Moody

ABSENT: Karen Silverthorn and Jean Watson

Guest: Derrick Manning, Historical Consultant for RFK Action Corp., Old Common Road

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Joan Richards made a motion that we move the Bridecake Plain item to the top of the agenda to allow ample time for discussion with Derrick Manning. Heather Lennon seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous.

Abner Pollard House Restoration – 220 Old Common Road

Derrick Manning, Historical Consultant with Shephard Consulting Group LLC, Braintree, MA joined the LHC and presented construction drawings dated 11/08/2016 for the Abner Pollard House (c. 1799) house part of the administrative offices for the RFK Action Corp.

He distributed four copies of the 17 page report prepared by Seger Architects, Inc. Salem, MA for Project #15-029. LHC members reviewed the report as Mr. Manning described work completed and work presently out for bid. The roof has been finished. There are four other contracts to be awarded and they are waiting for the chimney restoration bids to come in so that work can start the end of April. Members asked questions about the railings on the porches, the restoration of the existing windows, and the funding for the project under a State Tax Credit. Mr. Manning stated that all outside construction contracts should be awarded by mid-May. The fire sprinkler system will be among the last contracts to go out for bid. The heating system is currently under the DCAMM (Massachusetts Department of Capital Maintenance & Management) and they are in negotiations related to the heating plant to date. There will be staff working in the building during the construction phases. RFK Action Corp is hoping for donations and financial commitments from other sources.

PRESCOTT BUILDING UPDATE:

Work continues on the exterior of the building with the old fire escapes being removed. Heather Lennon said she took some pictures when they were being removed two weeks ago. The Adhoc Meeting last week (March 15) was held in town hall and Joan Richards, Heather Lennon, and Jay Moody were in attendance. Updates were given on the work needing attention, unforeseen repairs such as more asbestos removal on the first level, and cement requirements were discussed. Operations Project Manager Mary Bulso was thanked by the Historical Commission for referring them to Mendon Library and shelving (which they offered to Lancaster) that was at the old Mendon police station in storage. Heather and Michael had traveled to Mendon in late February and the shelving is in excellent condition and can be used in the Prescott Building. After Heather Lennon contacted Walter Sendrowski about the need to hire a mover, Mr. Sendrowski went ahead and spoke to Fire Chief Mike Hanson about sending down a truck and some men to pick the

shelving up, and this has been accomplished. The shelving is stored in the old Memorial School until the Prescott Building is ready to have it assembled in place for use for the Historical Commission and other town departments requiring shelving on the lower level. Heather Lennon thanked Andrew Jenrich, the Mendon Library Director, for his assistance,

Mary Bulso reported at the Adhoc Meeting that about \$3,000 was saved due to strapping that was approved and did not need to be replaced, thus eliminating that expenditure. The tank has to be moved slightly to fit into the designated location for code requirements.

We sent the Town Planner Noreen Piazza the LHC's letter of support to go with the paperwork she is submitting to the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) concerning a Mass Preservation Project Fund (MPPF) grant for the Prescott Building. If awarded, the grant would go to fund new storm windows.

CENTER BRIDGE ROAD TREE HEARING:

No further update relating to National Grid's next hearing on tree removal.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES:

Heather Lennon showed the LHC six pictures she took March 27th of recent tree damage at North Burial Field. Discussion followed on how to bring the neglected maintenance and tree removal from the historic cemeteries. Joan Richards said she contact a local tree company in Clinton and that if we had \$2,000 he could cut it down this Friday – alas we have no money the town finance people continue to tell us. Joan Richards will contact Harold Naughton about Worcester Corrections community work program. Jay Moody said that Alix Turner has a contact as she is seeking work to be done at the Community Center in April. The LHC agreed a letter of concern needs to be sent to the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, DPW tree warden and DPW Supt, DPW Commissioners and office staff relating to showing the PowerPoint presentation on the cemetery damage to the Board of Selectmen.

Heather Lennon and Joan Richards continue to work on the documents needed to get the historic cemeteries on the National Register. Heather is preparing the text for the Form E submission and after speaking with Phil Bergen at MHC, the work can be submitted once Heather has time to take photographs of each cemetery.

ROWLANDSON ROCK:

There will be a dedication ceremony of Rowlandson Rock on Sunday, April 23, 2017. This ceremony will serve as a public thank you to the Kilbourn family for the gift of the land to the town of Lancaster. Invitations to the ceremony and press releases must be sent to the BOS, DPW, Kilbourn family, etc.

The transfer of ownership to the Town ConCom is listed in the recent Assessors Report.

TOWN CLOCK: No report given

This matter remains on indefinite hold.

SHRAB (State Historical Records Advisory Board): There was nothing to report regarding the Collection Management Policy we are developing.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET FOR FY18:

All Lancaster town departments will be level-funded this year.

CORRESPONDENCE, ACCESSIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Michael Sczerzen said he received an email from Joe Mule at Thayer Memorial Library (TML) seeking a letter of support for an application for a \$30,000 library grant which TML will to put Nourse's annotated Marvin in digital format. The letter of support will be sent tomorrow.

Michael Sczerzen reported that Leo Paquette has donated a portrait of Edith Temple as a child (she died in a carriage accident at a young age), daughter of Thomas Temple who had a summer home on Main Street in the early 1900s. Mary Paquette's father worked for Mr. Temple. Also donated was a silk handkerchief from Paris made around the time of WWI.

MEETING MINUTES FROM February 27, 2017 MEETING:

Joan Richards moved to accept the minutes as corrected, Heather Lennon seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The next LHC regular meeting will be Monday, April 24, 2017 at 131 Main Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Joan Richards moved to adjourn, Joy Peach seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting