

**LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**MINUTES**  
**June 25, 2018**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, June 25, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Trustees Room at the Thayer Memorial Library (TML).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amy Brown, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Jay Moody, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Sczerzen, and Karen Silverthorn

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

**GUEST:** Paul Rouleau

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

The meeting minutes of May 14, 2018 were read and approved on a motion made by Jay Moody and seconded by Amy Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

**RE-APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS:**

Heather Lennon reported that the Board of Selectmen's (BOS) agenda for the next meeting will have the pertinent names for consideration for re-appointment.

**PRESCOTT BUILDING (PB):**

Heather Lennon reported that:

1. The house inventory files from storage in the Old Town Hall (OTH) have been moved into a cabinet in the office.
2. A large wooden Town Seal emblem carved and donated by former AUC art professor Wayne Hazen will possibly be displayed on the second floor of the Prescott Building (PB). The work was long ago commissioned and paid for by the late Jessica Queen of Lancaster. This item is pending approval by the BOS.
3. Vertical blinds for the glass window between the meeting room and the office area have been ordered from Lowes and will greatly improve the appearance of the window area on the LHC side of the wall.
4. A large metal cabinet has been ordered from W.B. Mason to store office supplies. This will be kept in the Archives Room.

5. A large wooden table has been moved from the OTH and placed in the Exhibit Room for doll house display.

Marcia Jakubowicz spoke about her project working to furnish the “Pink House” from the Hosmer Collection. She suggested that the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) might put up a Facebook (FB) page on the internet and perhaps do a “Go Fund Me” to help pay for doll house furnishings.

**FINANCE REPORT:**

Joan Richards reported that the remainder of our FY2018 budget will be used to purchase a storage cabinet for office supplies, blinds for the window (now blocked with poster board in the meeting room) and other needed supplies. The Past Perfect technical support fee (\$432.00) has been submitted for payment through the town’s Information Technology (IT) budget for FY2019.

All LHC requests for payments are processed through the Town Administrator’s (TA) office. Joan also mentioned that the LHC will soon need a new copy machine as the present one is failing.

**REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL & HISTORIC CEMETERY CLEAN-UP:**

Heather Lennon reported that the new location for the memorial will be pursued as soon as hazardous tree removal at the Middle Cemetery (MC) is complete. Heather Lennon is working with tree remover Brian Favreau of Sterling.

She also reported that she met with Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent Kevin Bartlett, TA Pacheco, Brian Favreau and Michael Sczerzen to take a preliminary look at the trees to be removed from the site.

**NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS FOR CEMETERIES:**

Heather Lennon reported that she has finally heard back from Betsy Friedberg at the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) (after more than a year) relating to the LHC submissions for consideration.

Betsy requested that Heather obtain a letter from our BOS supporting the seeking of funds possibly available through MHC to pay for the hiring of professional consultants to do the paperwork for our nominations. This hiring of consultants is the MHC’s preferred method for getting the paperwork done. Heather will pursue this matter with the Lancaster TA.

**TOWN CLOCK INSURANCE:**

**No report given.**

**ATHERTON & PONA KIN BRIDGES:**

**No report given.**

**COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN (CMP):****Through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):**

Heather Lennon has heard nothing regarding the State Disaster Planning conference that previous Town Clerk Mary de Alderete attended. Joan Richards volunteered to pursue this matter with the TA.

**ROWLANDSON ROCK & TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:**

John Aurin spoke to Heather Lennon and said that the interested Eagle Scout will be starting his project soon as the weather is better to accomplish this project during the summer months.

**ABNER POLLARD HOUSE REHABILITATION ON OLD COMMON ROAD:**

Joan Richards mentioned that the State of Massachusetts has allowed the circa 1799 houses up on Old Common to fall into further disrepair. State representative Harold Naughton should be contacted to inquire regarding possible help. Heather Lennon said she will contact the consultant (Derek Manning) who is working on the Pollard House to get an update.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Joan Richards reported that she interviewed Rita Hart Ford regarding the old Fairbanks Inn and her friendship with Lancaster poet Harriet Forbush in 1938. She has transcribed her notes from the interview. Rita donated two 1902 Calendars with Lancaster Company names and some other papers items related to daughter towns. She said she plans to donate a Guest Registrar from a Lancaster tavern dated 1912 to the LHC at some point in the future.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Heather Lennon said office hours for July and August will be by appointment only.

**ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:**

Karen Silverthorn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 pm. It was seconded by Michael Sczerzen. A vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

There will be no monthly meeting in July or August unless a need arises. The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2018, location to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting