

**MINUTES  
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
July 31, 2017**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, July 31, 2017 at 6:30 pm at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

**MEMBER(S) PRESENT:**

Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Michael Sczerzen,

**ASSOCIATE MEMBER(S) PRESENT:** Jay Moody

**ABSENT:** Marcia Jakubowicz, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorn, Jean Watson

**GUEST(S):** Ted Manning, DPW Commissioner

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

**PRESCOTT BUILDING UPDATE:**

At the AD HOC monthly meeting of July 19, 2017, it was reported that National Grid's continued lack of providing a transformer will impact the progress of the project. Electricity is required to accomplish work in a timely manner to avoid added costs to the town. The elevator installation is dependent on the electrical issues being resolved.

At this point, occupancy is still on track for late December of 2017. LHC members discussed issues related to the upcoming move into new quarters. The next AD HOC committee meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2017 in the Town Hall Auditorium at 12 noon.

The LHC received a copy of a letter dated June 14, 2017 from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) stating that the request for MPPH Round 23 funds for the Center School (Prescott Building) Rehabilitation Project has once again been turned down.

**HISTORIC CEMETERIES INITIATIVE:**

Members discussed getting funds to systematically remove aging trees from our oldest and most "at risk" cemeteries; namely the Old Settlers', Middle, and Old Common cemeteries. Michael Sczerzen made a motion to request funds from the upcoming Capital Funds plan to "kick-start this process. Heather Lennon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco will be sent the request.

Heather Lennon reported that "thank you" letters have been composed to send appropriate personnel for clean-up work accomplished by crews from MCI-Shirley and the Worcester House of Correction. A motion to send the letters was made by Michael Sczerzen. It was seconded by Joy Peach and carried unanimously. Copies of the letters will also be sent to Stanley Starr, Board of Selectmen (BOS) Chair and Kevin Bartlett, DPW Superintendent.

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

John Aurin, who is very involved with the local Boys Scouts, has been contacted and has expressed positive interest in devising plans involving Boy Scouts for clean-up and ongoing maintenance of the Rowlandson Rock Historic Site and the Town Pound Historical site. This will be followed up in September.

**LHC COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN**  
**Through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB):**

A “Disaster Plan” needs to be devised and added to the overall plan. Members discussed the importance of this and it was suggested that creating this plan be *postponed* until the move into new quarters.

**FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET:**

FY 2018 commenced on July 1, 2017. Thus far, no new expenditures have been made.

**SEVEN BRIDGE ROAD POLE/TREE REMOVAL HEARING:**

On July 17, 2017 the BOS approved National Grid’s request to install six new poles on Seven Bridge Road. The National Grid representative indicated that this was to improve service to the fairgrounds. Only one tree will be trimmed, not cut down near the driveway of Kalon Farms.

**CENTER VILLAGE DISTRICT OVERLAY PROPOSAL:**

A hearing regarding the rezoning of the Lancaster Center Village with an “overlay” was conducted on June 26, 2017. Michael Sczerzen reported there were several in attendance who were opposed and wondered why the matter keeps coming up. There is strong opposition from those living in the area for many reasons. LHC members agreed and it was decided that this matter should and will be followed with keen interest.

**DEMOLITION PERMIT FORM**

This matter remains on indefinite hold.

**MEETING MINUTES:**

The LHC meeting minutes from May 22, 2017 were reviewed and corrected. Heather Lennon made a motion to accept them as corrected. Joy peach seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**CORRESPONDENCE, ACCESSIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND TOPICS NOT PREVIOUSLY ANTICIPATED:**

Heather Lennon noted the very dilapidated condition of an Atlantic Union College (AUC) historic building known as the “White House”. Members discussed this as well as the condition of the AUC campus in general. Heather stated that she plans to compose a letter regarding the “White House” to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the college.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Heather Lennon moved to adjourn, Joy Peach seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously at 7:55 pm.

**FUTURE MEEING DATES:**

No meeting is scheduled for August, 2017.

The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, September 11, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Lennon, Recorder for the Meeting