

LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MINUTES
August 20, 2018

A Special Meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, August 20, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the Trustees Room at the Thayer Memorial Library (TML).

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Jay Moody, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorn, and Jean Watson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Brown and Michael Sczerzen

CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. in the Trustees Room at Thayer Memorial Library.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of June 25, 2018 were read and approved on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Marcia Jakubowicz. The motion carried unanimously.

NETFLIX REQUEST FOR GAZEBO ON TOWN GREEN:

Heather Lennon reported that Town Administrator (TA) Pacheco told her that Netflix Film Company wants to do a series in Lancaster and use the Town Green. They want to put a gazebo on the Green to use while filming.

LHC members wanted to know the length of the filming time and the dimensions of the proposed structure. Would the film company provide a plaque on the gazebo when complete with the name of the film, dates filmed and other information they and the BOS think appropriate? Further, would the area be leveled and re-seeded when the project is finished?

The buildings surrounding the Town Green are often photographed and a permanent structure would interfere. It was felt that the town green should remain open space for townspeople to gather for special events such as the traditional Memorial Day programs.

Members unanimously concluded that the structure should be moved after filming to an area in back (to the east) of the Green to possibly be used for recreational purposes.

Heather Lennon agreed to draft a letter to the TA and Board of Selectmen (BOS) which would be reviewed by the members for edits before being sent.

PRESCOTT BUILDING (PB):

Heather Lennon reported that:

1. She has been working through the month on creating a master inventory of all items accumulated by the LHC by going through all the boxes in the archives room and separating things into categories. Her nephew, Nathaniel Christoph, has been helping move some of the heavy boxes into the overflow storage room designated for LHC use in the Old Town Hall (OTH).
2. A large wooden "Town Seal" carved and donated by former AUC art professor Wayne Hazen still needs mounting on a wall in the common area of the second floor. The work was long ago commissioned and paid for by the late Jessica Queen of Lancaster. The placement of this item has been approved by the BOS.
3. Several furniture items have been repaired by Lancaster resident and volunteer Dick Belanger who knows how to skillfully restore antiques.
4. Architect Mark Schryver mentioned that it has been 12 years (2006) since the TA had contracted him to do an "As-Built" for the PB. LHC members are gratified to actually be in the building after all the hard work they put forth to accomplish this goal.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES:

Heather Lennon reported that Brian Favreau is continuing to clear and remove debris at the Middle Cemetery (MC) on Main Street (Route 70) after having cut several hazardous trees down. Michael Sczerzen has recommended Vinca AKA Myrtle as a ground cover for the north border slope. The TA has been informed of this recommendation and will pass it on to the Department of Public Works (DPW).

REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL:

Heather Lennon reported that a location for the monument placement has been approved along the front stone wall of the MC. A 3' x 5' concrete foundation (18" thick) will be poured soon as a base for the monument. The 7,700 pound rough-hewn granite piece will be delivered in a few weeks. An appropriately worded 2' x 2' bronze plaque will then be affixed to the front by Regonini-Zoll of Clinton, MA. When all is complete, the LHC will set a date for a dedicatory program. November 11, 2018 has been suggested as an appropriate date for the event.

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS FOR CEMETERIES:

Heather Lennon reported that Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) has provided grant money for two consultants to do the necessary pictures and paperwork required for

nomination for National Registrar Status for the Old Settlers' Burial Ground (OSBG) and the MC. They have already visited Lancaster to do research.

FINANCE REPORT:

Joan Richards stated that the most recent monthly report for the LHC showed only a small deduction for office supplies.

PLANS FOR EXHIBIT IN TOWN MUSEUM ROOM

Joan Richards reported that the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) has recently established a "GoFundMe" link on their Facebook (FB) page to raise money to purchase additional miniature furnishings for the four houses intended for future display. Marcia Jakubowicz spoke about her project working to furnish the "Pink House" from the Hosmer Collection. The LHS hopes that the Hosmer Dollhouse Project will be completed in 2019. At that time, the LHC also plans to have a display highlighting Herbert Hosmer who was one of the first appointed members in 1964.

TOWN CLOCK INSURANCE:

No report given.

ATHERTON & PONAKIN 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 has contacted Dianne Reardon, the new clerk, in hopes of getting a disaster plan completed soon.

ROWLANDSON ROCK & TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

Heather Lennon said she has not heard from John Aurin, Troop Leader but assumes that plans are progressing.

ABNER POLLARD HOUSE REHABILITATION ON OLD COMMON ROAD:

No report given.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Heather Lennon read a letter from the MassDOT regarding a proposed paving of Route 2 in Lancaster. LHC members reviewed the information and it was the consensus that there was no impact historically with this proposed repair work. A reply to that effect will be sent to the MassDOT.

Heather Lennon mentioned she had spoken with Barbara Fuller at Atlantic Union College (AUC) regarding the Rowlandson Garrison Site artifacts that were discovered in the 1970's when a dig was performed. Since that time, the artifacts have been stored in the

G. Eric Jones Library on the AUC campus. The LHC would like have AUC donate the artifacts to the town. Barbara Fuller will look into the matter and is expected to respond soon.

Other Business:

Mark Schryver mentioned he is currently working on a plan for a historic house in the Vernon Hill section of Worcester and that he has learned that the house is itself recorded with MHC as a individual house on their Historic District, thus special forms need to be completed and approval made at the state level. Mark will obtain information about the procedure to accomplish listing one individual house so we understand the process should a similar request be made for a house in Lancaster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Future Meetings

The dates are as follows:

September 24th

October 29th

November 26th

December 17th

Meeting places are yet to be determined and will be posted with the agendas.

ADJOURNMENT:

Marcia Jakubowicz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm. It was seconded by Joan Richards. A vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting