

**MINUTES**  
**LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**September 24, 2018**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, September 24, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the LHC office on the upper level of the Prescott Building.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:** None

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

After review, the minutes of the August 20, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously as corrected on a motion made by Jay Moody and seconded by Amy Brown.

**NETFLIX REQUEST FOR GAZEBO ON TOWN GREEN:**

In reply to a request for input from Town Administrator (TA) Orlando Pacheco, the LHC sent a letter, dated August 24, 2018, to him as well as the Board of Selectmen (BOS) stating comments, concerns and questions of the LHC regarding the Netflix gazebo. Right after Labor Day, the prop was installed.

Since there was no time at the BOS meeting of September 10<sup>th</sup>, BOS's meeting, Lennon provided comments regarding the LHC's position at the BOS meeting on September 17<sup>th</sup>. A description of the Town Green's development was presented and a diagram with dates of building construction and arrangement of the Green was distributed. In other public comment, it was suggested that the gazebo could later, and more appropriately, be relocated to the adjacent recreational campus where it could be installed with ADA accessibility and used by townspeople. The TA said the filming is currently scheduled to be completed by December, 2018.

After LHC discussion, Heather Lennon agreed to contact Win Clark, who is on the Recreation Committee, to discuss the possibility of finding a place for the gazebo in the new Recreational Park. She further agreed to get a story to the local press to inform the public about this matter.

**GOODRIDGE BROOK PROPOSED 40B DEVELOPMENT:**

Heather Lennon reported that a concerned citizens group has been diligently working to obtain background information on this huge and densely packed development proposal which they feel is inappropriate for a small town like Lancaster. Lennon reported that she had written a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chairman, Mathew Mayo. This letter, of September 10, 2018, expressed the alarming concerns of the LHC following advice given in a letter from Brona Simon, the Director of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC).

Joan Richards urged all LHC members to send written comments to the BOS by filling out a form provided on the town website. September 28, 2018 will mark the close of the thirty day comment period. The next meeting for the ZBA is September 27, 2018 and the next BOS meeting is October 1, 2018. The 40B project will be on the agendas of both meetings.

### **HISTORIC CEMETRIES – NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS:**

The company hired to do the work has nearly completed the project and will submit the nominations to the MHC.bb

### **HISTORIC CEMETERIES – CLEAN-UP:**

Brian Favreau has completed the planned hazardous tree removal at Middle Cemetery (MC) . Further, Heather Lennon and Michael Sczerzen met with Brandy Tarantino from National Grid's Forestry Division. After an inspection, she agreed to remove three hazardous pine trees along the power lines on Main Street in front of the MC at some future date. This is a positive response and the LHC will continue to pursue tree removal. The Department of Public Works (DPW) will be kept in the communication loop.

A descendant of early Lancaster settler, Ralph Houghton, visited the LHC office in early September. He offered to donate an amount up to \$1,500.00 in honor of his ancestor and left it to the LHC to decide what would be best. After discussion, members felt that removal of another tree might be an appropriate use of the money. This possibility and other options will be investigated.

“Project Footstone” at the MC will continue when associate member Marcia Jakubowicz and volunteer Ashley Driscoll can determine a mutually agreeable time. Mention was made of a couple of stone markers at the MC that had been cleaned. LHC members would like to see the stones cleaned when effective and safe methods are determined and the project can be scheduled.

### **REVOLUTIONARY WAR MEMORIAL:**

Heather Lennon reported that the monument has been placed on its cement base and the stonewall has been filled in around it. Regonini- Zoll in Clinton has the bronze plaque nearly ready to be affixed and this will be done soon. November 11 at 2 p.m. was agreed upon for a Dedication Service. The order of service, participants and invitation list will be reported on at the next LHC meeting which will be scheduled for mid-October.

### **FINANCE:**

No report given.

### **HISTORICAL MARKERS SURVEY:**

Amy Brown reported she has started the process of researching and inventorying the condition of the town's historical markers. In the process, she found that the worst looking signs are the town line markers. She inquired regarding who is responsible for replacing them with updated town line boundary markers on the Bolton/Lancaster, Sterling/Lancaster, and Clinton/Lancaster lines?

This is an ongoing project. Amy was thanked for her efforts and when she has completed the survey, plans will be made to replace, repaint or otherwise refurbish the different types of markers.

### **ATHERTON & PONAKIN BRIDGES:**

No new report given.

**GRANT AWARD (through the State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) :**

Before she retires the end of the month, Town Planner Noreen Piazza will provide Joan Richards with material from which to devise a Disaster Plan that will go into the LHC's Collection Management Plan as a last component needed for completion.

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

Heather Lennon recently reviewed and edited the narrative portions of an Eagle Scout project application completed by Nolan Stocker. A problem identified by Nolan was a lack of funding for sign and fencing replacement. Scout leader John Aurin has been informed of this but currently the project appears to be on hold.

**TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU):**

No new report given. The Town of Lancaster is still waiting to hear from George Franz at the First Church for a status report from the church's Standing Committee.

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

No report was given but it was reiterated that the Massachusetts Department of Capital Assets Management (DCAM) has turned the heat off to the campus's brick cottage buildings. The lack of heat will, undoubtedly, accelerate their deterioration.

**ACCESSIONS:**

No report given.

**DEMOLITIONS:**

Heather Lennon reported that the detached section of "Fairlawn" aka AUC's "White House" may soon be slated for demolition to make way for a parking lot for the College Church of Seventh-Day Adventists (SDA's). It is located on the corner of Main Street and East George Hill Road.

**ADJOURNMENT AND FUTURE MEETING DATE:**

Joan Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. and it was seconded by Michael Sczerzen. A vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

The LHC's next meeting will be held in the LHC office on the top floor of the Prescott Building (PB) at 6:30 pm unless otherwise notified.

**DATES:**

Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, November 26, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 17, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting