

**TOWN OF LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION (LHC)**

Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2020

**Members Present:** Amy Brown, Liz Colley, Marcia Jakubowitz, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Karen Silverthorn.

**Members Absent:** Mark Schryver, Jean Watson.

**Guest:** Linnea Lakin Servey

**Call to Order:**

Chairperson Lennon called the meeting (via ZOOM) to order at 6:33 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes of 8-31-2020 were approved unanimously as written on a motion by Marcia Jakubowicz and seconded by Joy Peach.

**Status of Significant Property Developments/Sales in Lancaster:**

- A. The proposed development of 23 houses at 679 George Hill Road is still under consideration before the Planning Board.
- B. The “White House” on the Atlantic Union College (AUC) campus has been sold to Pastor Carlyns and Dr. Jeannette Behrmann. The couple plans to use the facility as a center for counseling, tutoring, vegan cooking and sewing classes. The Appeals Board has approved their request to divide the 4 acre parcel into two parts: 3.5 acres to go with the mansion and .5 acres to go with the detached wing which will used for 4 housing units.
- C. Thayer Conservatory of Music has a potential buyer (Carol Linda Applebury) who proposes to use the facility to operate a day school for autistic children. Reportedly, the plan allows for the music school to continue to operate in the building as well.

**Middle Cemetery (MC):**

Chairperson Lennon has requested a quotation from Nurseryman Dale Di Meco for treating the northern slope of the cemetery to prevent the re-growth of weeds and volunteer tree sprouts after the major removal of a several trees a few years ago.

**Renewal of Collections Agreement between the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) and the LHC:**

A document distributed to both Boards for review was approved unanimously on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn. It will now be signed and filed appropriately.

### **Special Project Reports:**

#### **A. Exhibit Room featuring Hosmer dollhouses, puppets and marionettes:**

Chairperson Lennon reported having received a call from Sharon Boski, President and Northeastern Director of Regional Puppets of America group based in CT. Due to time constraints, her planned filming of the Hosmer collection will be delayed. Meanwhile Marcia Jakubowicz will continue work on the dollhouses. Also, Martha Moore has volunteered to work on refurbishing the puppets and marionettes using archival guidelines to be gotten from the Ballard Institute of Puppetry in Storrs, CT.

#### **B. Signs and Markers:**

Amy Brown reported on the preparation of a map for historical walking tours throughout Lancaster. She and her husband are working on maps to be used with “post-it” historical notations for future tours which will be available as hand-outs on the internet. Heather Lennon recently conducted such a tour for some Lancaster Girl Scouts and such a map would have been useful. Also, Heather reported that the LHS has a web page that has been developed by Timothy Kenny where the maps could be made available. A committed web master is needed since Tim Kenny resigned several months ago.

#### **C. Town Pound:**

A question was raised by Liz Colley about the Town Pound on Langen Road. Heather Lennon reported that last year Eagle Scout Nolan Stocker had restored the area. This year, his parents mowed and weeded the site to keep it looking well maintained. LHC members expressed great appreciation for their efforts.

### **Community Preservation Act (CPA):**

Guest Linnea Lakin Servey reviewed the benefits of CPA for the town of Lancaster and encouraged support for question #3 at the upcoming election.

### **Correspondence:**

**61A proposal for 28 Runaway Brook Lot 18A, Lancaster** The TA’s office is requesting comments from the LHC regarding the town’s Lancaster right first refusal for the sale of this lot for \$160,000.00. The deadline for comments is October 16, 2020. The consensus of the LHC members was for Joan Richards to pursue information on the Native American artifacts once discovered on the former Chandler land prior to the approval of the housing development and report back before the comments are sent in.

### **Acquisitions:**

- A. Jean Watson has donated a box of text and photos she was going to use in writing a book on the Lancaster police. Much of the material had come from Walter Pelletier, a former police officer.
- B. AUC will soon donate two cases of bird specimens formerly on display in the Thayer Bird Museum. They will be cleaned and housed “high and dry” in the LHC office.

- C. LHC member Liz Colley offered to donate a collection of glass negatives showing the devastating hurricane damage done in Lancaster in September of 1938.

**Access to Prescott Building during COVID times:**

Chairperson Lennon reported that she has obtained written permission to enter the LHC office from the TA. Access is from 9 am to 4 pm. on Tuesdays and compliance with COVID protocols is understood as necessary. LHC members are welcome to come in by appointment.

**Additional Storage Space:**

Additional storage space for LHC artifacts has been approved by the TA. It will be in the area once occupied by the Assessors in the 1908 Town Hall.

**Future Meeting Date:**

Monday, 10-26-20 at 6:30 pm via ZOOM

**Adjournment:**

Joan Richards made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m. and Liz Colley seconded the motion. Chairperson Lennon called for the vote and it was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder

**Note:** Town Administrator Orlando Pacheco has given Chairperson Lennon written permission to use her personal ZOOM account to set up future meetings which will be recorded. Invitation links listed in the Agendas are posted on the town's web page.