

**MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
September 25, 2017**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 6:30 pm at 131 Main Street, South Lancaster, in the Historical Commission Office.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Michael Sczerzen,

ABSENT: Karen Silverthorn, Jean Watson,

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS ABSENT: Marcia Jakubowicz, Jay Moody

GUESTS: John Aurin, Scoutmaster, Lancaster Troop 1, Gilda Doherty, Troop Mother

CALL TO ORDER:

Michael Sczerzen called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Joan Richards moved that the agenda items Rowlandson Rock and Town Pound Historic Sites be discussed first. Heather Lennon seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND HISTORIC SITES:

John Aurin was introduced to the LHC members. Michael Sczerzen and Heather Lennon gave background information related to the two sites. Heather Lennon provided a suggested list for boundary marking, signage, clean-up and on-going maintenance for each site. John Aurin, who mentioned community service and Eagle Scout projects, said he would provide feedback mostly likely in early 2018. LHC members thanked Mr. Aurin and Gilda Doherty for moving forward with this project.

TOWN CLOCK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

Heather Lennon reported that she forwarded LHC recommendations to Orlando Pacheco regarding the (MOU) draft between the First Church of Christ and the town of Lancaster regarding ownership, care and maintenance for this treasured historical asset. The matter will be discussed with the Board of Selectmen (BOS) at a future meeting.

HISTORIC CEMETERIES INITIATIVE:

Heather Lennon reported that there is an article in the Special Town Meeting (STM) warrant for \$10,000 for tree removal submitted by the BOS specifically for our historic cemeteries. She has also contacted Gina Perez and left a phone message seeking further cemetery clean-up help in the fall. Letters of appreciation dated September 12, 2017 have been sent.

PRESCOTT BUILDING UPDATE:

Michael Sczerzen reported that the transformer has finally arrived. Heather Lennon spoke to John DiTommaso about a pull down screen for use by anyone making presentations in the multi-purpose meeting room located on the upper level. Room darkening shades were also discussed. The next meeting of the ADHOC committee is scheduled for October 11, 2017 at 12 noon in the Town Hall Auditorium.

The LHC members recommended that the multi-purpose meeting room be named for Phyllis Farnsworth who served 29 years on the LHC and was chairperson for 23 years. Orlando Pacheco recommended the LHC sent a request the BOS for their consideration. Since the Bolton Road Bridge was named for Bill Farnsworth, LHC members felt this honor should be specifically for Mrs. Farnsworth.

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

Heather Lennon read a copy of Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 40, Section 8D and referenced an e-mail from the Lancaster Town Clerk regarding research done by paid employees of the town versus LHC volunteers doing research. She said she would submit an updated document including information for "LHC Governance" to the "Roving Archivist", Rachel Onuf, for further recommendations. A "Disaster Plan" which is also an important component, will be devised and added after the move into the Prescott Building. Meanwhile, the Town Clerk will go for "Disaster Plan" training.

Halloween on the Green:

The LHC members voted to again participate in the event on the Town Green and will await further information from the BOS and Winn Clark. Joy Peach has crocheted over fifty little ghosts to hand out to the children.

Historic Sign Refurbishment:

Jean Watson pursued and had fabricated an historic sign for "Lover's Lane" off of Center Bridge Road. Jay Moody has permanently attached the new sign on the pole with the historic marker. A note of thanks will be sent to both Jean for her contribution and Jay for his efforts.

LHC members discussed the possibility of having Minuteman High School vocational students or MCI inmates assist in refurbishing signs by sandblasting old paint from historic signs in Lancaster. Jay Moody previously mentioned that Minuteman has new equipment for sandblasting. The LHC would also like to have signage for the cemeteries fabricated and installed.

FINANCE REPORT/BUDGET:

FY 2018 no purchases have been made since the last report.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of September 11, 2017 were read, corrected, and approved as corrected on a motion made by Joy Peach, seconded by Heather Lennon. The vote carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:30 pm Joy Peach made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Joan Richards seconded the motion. Chairman Michael Sczerzen called for the vote and it was unanimous.

FUTURE MEETING DATES:

The next meeting of the LHC will be on Monday, October 30, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the Meeting