

**MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
September 30, 2019**

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, September 30, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC office on the upper level of the Prescott Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Brown, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Karen Silverthorn, Jean Watson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Liz Colley, Marcia Jakubowicz, Mark Schryver,

GUESTS:

Howie Auger, Christine and Ray Mirabito, Jay Moody

CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of August 26, 2019 were read, edited and approved unanimously on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Amy Brown.

PROPOSED GOODRIDGE BROOK 40B DEVELOPMENT:

It was reported that the Conservation Commission has some ongoing concerns and is awaiting further test results regarding the project.

HAWTHORN HILL ESTATE:

Heather Lennon reported that the property is still for sale. The LHC has a map showing the seven "Approval Not Required" (ANR) lots currently being developed along Hilltop Road and the remaining unsold parcels.

TOWN GREEN – UPDATE:

A handicapped ramp has been installed on the gazebo and negative comments have been received regarding its appearance. LHC members are generally dismayed by the way the historic Town Green has been altered. It was mentioned that the gazebo, which is non-historic, is also very incompatible with the massive and majestic historic buildings surrounding it and looks very out of place. In addition, the Green is now frequently littered with unattractive advertising signs.

EXHIBIT ROOM AND HOSMER DOLLHOUSE PROJECT:

Marcia Jakubowicz continues to finalize the work on the houses. Heather Lennon reported that she is waiting for volunteer woodworker Dick Belanger to finish building a mock puppet stage to display numerous Hosmer puppets and marionettes. It is hoped that the Exhibit Room will be ready for public soon.

NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS FOR TWO LANCASTER CEMETERIES:

Heather Lennon and Joy Peach went to the Boston headquarters of the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) on September 11, 2019. MHC members met and unanimously voted their support for the nomination of the Old Settlers' Burial Ground (OSBG) and the Middle Cemetery (MC) for National Register status. Jay Moody mentioned that at the most recent meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS), the Town Administrator (TA) mentioned that Heather Lennon had done significant work on preparing the nominations.

It is hoped that all four remaining Lancaster historic cemeteries will also be nominated for National Register status in the future. Three of the four are already “eligible”. Funds must first be found to pay for the required professional consultants to do the work according to MHC’s exacting specifications. LHC members extended thanks to Heather for her continued efforts to do the preparatory work.

PROJECT HEADSTONE/FOOTSTONE:

Volunteer Howie Auger has been working on cleaning the stone markers in the OSBG and the MC. Further, Department of Public Works (DPW) Superintendent Kevin Bartlett has given permission for Howie to cut overgrown shrubbery around some of the markers. Howie, who left the meeting early, was thanked for his efforts.

ROWLANDSON ROCK AND TOWN POUND PROJECTS:

Eagle Scout candidate Nolan Stocker and his helpers got their picture in the *Clinton Item* after Heather Lennon had signed off on his completed projects to clean-up the Rowlandson Rock and Town Pound Historical Sites. A new sign has been erected at the Rowlandson Rock location by Regonini-Zoll of Clinton, MA. It was paid for by the Lancaster Historical Society.

VISIONING PROPOSAL FOR THE TOWN OF LANCASTER:

Heather Lennon introduced guests Christine and Roy Mirabito. Christine presented a two-page paper on her vision for Lancaster. She is seeking input from the LHC to draw up guidelines for future industrial development that would be compatible and appropriate with the way the town has evolved both historically and culturally. Having such guidelines pro-actively in place would set the tone for future development in accordance with the wishes of town residents. A lengthy discussion followed and Heather said she would call a “Working Meeting” on the subject before bringing a proposal to the Planning Board.

ACCESSIONS:

The LHC has accepted the following:

1. Some articles of wedding clothing in an archival box with acid free paper was donated by Martha Moore.
2. A case of over one hundred bird specimens that had been on display in the former Thayer Bird Museum in South Lancaster was donated through Principal Sean O’Shea of the Mary Rowlandson Elementary School. The case has been housed there for many years. The case was damaged in the move but will be repaired as time allows.
3. A mahogany table for use in the LHC office has been donated by Leo and Mary Paquette. A small plaque was made to acknowledge the donation per Leo’s request. The \$20.00 cost of the plaque was approved by the LHC and Heather Lennon will pursue getting the plaque properly placed.

SIGNS AND MARKERS PROJECT:

Two historical signs placed in Lancaster in 1930 are badly in need of refurbishment. The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MA DOT) advised Heather Lennon to contact our state Representative to inquire regarding a funding source. No word has yet been received from Representative Naughton’s office.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN - DISASTER PLAN COMPONENT:

Karen Silverthorn has spoken with Joe Mule and as soon as Joe receives a new template for the plan it will be addressed. The Thayer Memorial Library (TML) and the LHC will work jointly on this.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for October 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC office on the top floor of the Prescott Building.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was by made by Joan Richards at 8:10 pm. Joy Peach seconded the motion, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the meeting.