

MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
October 28, 2019

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) took place on Monday, October 28, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC office on the upper level of the Prescott Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Liz Colley, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, Mark Schryver, Karen Silverthorn, Jean Watson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Brown

GUEST(S):

Deb and Joe D'Eramo, Jay Moody, Christine and Ray Mirabito,

CALL TO ORDER:

Heather Lennon called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The meeting minutes of September 30, 2019 were read, corrected and approved unanimously on a motion made by Joy Peach and seconded by Jean Watson.

TOWN GREEN:

After town officials received complaints about the unattractive appearance of the handicapped access ramp, it was removed. Reportedly, the ramp was also not of the correct scale for the structure per ADA requirements.

PROPOSED GOODRIDGE BROOK 40B DEVELOPMENT:

Heather Lennon reported that the lawsuit brought against the town Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) for overstepping their authority against the Lancaster Sewer District Commission (LSDC) is presently in the Worcester Superior Court.

HAWTHORN HILL ESTATE:

The parcel of the estate with the Carriage House is currently listed as "under agreement".

A bonus tour of the mansion was arranged by the Lancaster Historical Society for October 27, 2019 with about thirty persons in attendance. Attendees loved the tour. Portions of an upcoming movie version of "Little Women" took place there several months ago. As partial payment for using the location, the movie company restored an oak floor, painted walls and hung new period drapes in the library.

OLD COMMON ROAD INITIATIVE:

Heather Lennon has spoken to Representative Harold Naughton about the former Lancaster Industrial School for Girls (LISG) campus on Old Common Road. The Massachusetts Department of Capital Assets Management (DCAMM), is extremely slow in responding to queries about the future of the property. Since the property is on the National Register, LHC members encouraged Heather to compose and send letters expressing serious concern regarding the future of the campus. A search for a new water source for the town on the property was also mentioned.

EXHIBIT ROOM AND HOSMER DOLLHOUSE PROJECT:

Marcia Jakubowicz reported she is working with Dick Belanger on a mock puppet stage. Stairs in the orange dollhouse will also be repaired. The Chandler-Parsons House will remain unfurnished as presently it will be a challenge financially to buy correctly scaled pieces.

CEMETERIES:**A. Project Footstone**

Jay Moody mentioned he found out that prisoners from MCI in Concord may again be available for cemetery clean-ups. Heather Lennon will call the coordinator to inquire about this. Volunteer Howie Auger, who is cleaning stones in the Middle Cemetery, was recognized and thanked recently during a recent Lancaster Historical Society tour.

B. Budget Request:

Heather Lennon mentioned that she had not received a reply to the request submitted to the Town Administrator (TA) several months ago for Capital Improvement funds for continued tree removal at the Middle Cemetery. LHC members are of the opinion that tree removals should be continued.

HALLOWEEN ON THE GREEN:

Jay Moody said with bad weather predicted for October 31st, the event would be moved to Saturday evening, November 2nd. He volunteered to handle the give-away of forty-six crocheted “ghosts” made by Joy Peach as the LHC will not set up a table due to lack of man-power.

MARKERS AND SIGNS:

A. Refurbishment: Heather Lennon reported two historical signs erected in 1930 have been removed for refurbishment. This is being handled in cooperation with the DPW.

B. Marker News: For the record, Heather Lennon reported that Bruce Warila recently shared the story of “Ellen’s Rock” located at the entrance to the pathway to Rowlandson Rock up on George Hill. The story, which adds to the lore of the location, is on file in the LHC office.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ACCESSIONS:

A plaque made by Dick Belanger and styled as a paperweight, was displayed and LHC members agreed it was an appropriate tribute for the donation of a mahogany table from Leo and Mary Paquette.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN - DISASTER PLAN COMPONENT:

No report given.

VISIONING FOR LANCASTER:

The next LHC meeting, to be scheduled soon, will be largely devoted to “Visioning” with the intent of delivering a statement to the Planning Board.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the LHC Office.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was by made by Karen Silverthorn at 6:55 pm. Jean Watson seconded it, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously. This LHC meeting was brief to allow those who wanted to attend the Planning Board meeting at 7 pm to arrive on time.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the meeting.

