

MEETING MINUTES
LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION
May 20, 2019

A meeting of the Lancaster Historical Commission (LHC) was held on Monday, May 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC office on the upper level of the Prescott Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amy Brown, Liz Colley, Marcia Jakubowicz, Heather Lennon, Joy Peach, Joan Richards, and Karen Silverthorn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jay Moody, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson

GUESTS: Linnea Lakin Servey, Albert Narbonne

CALL TO ORDER:

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

MEETING MINUTES:

The Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2019 were read and approved unanimously on a motion made by Karen Silverthorn and seconded by Joy Peach.

GOODRIDGE BROOK PROPOSAL -- 40B DEVELOPMENT:

Heather Lennon reported that the next Sewer Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 23rd at which time a vote will be taken to approve or deny the developer's request to proceed. Heather Lennon reviewed some background information on concerns listed in previous LHC minutes such as public safety, traffic and adequate water and sewerage service. Joan Richards mentioned that if paid town employees had done their work and followed through, the town would be in "safe harbor" status now. The ZBA and the developer agreed to a date no later than June 7th for the ZBA's decision regarding the developer's application.

679 GEORGE HILL ROAD – HAWTHORN HILL ESTATE:

Heather Lennon reported that the real estate agent handling the sale of this property has informed her that it looks like the sale process is ongoing to a buyer planning to rehabilitate the mansion. No firm details are available at this time.

RETURN OF LOANED ITEMS FROM THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (TML)

Heather Lennon reported she has received back all the LHC items, which had been on loan to TML since 2003. The items have been processed and stored appropriately.

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS:

The LHC welcomed Elizabeth (Liz) Colley to the group on a motion made by Joan Richards and seconded by Karen Silverthorn. Heather Lennon called for the vote and it carried unanimously. Elizabeth Colley fills a vacancy left by Michael Sczerzen.

Heather Lennon reported that with the election of Jay Moody as a Board of Selectmen (BOS) member, he has had to resign his seat on the LHC. Heather will pursue receiving his letter of resignation. The LHC is awaiting word from a potential candidate for the vacancy and will report to the BOS as soon a commitment is made. Since there are no meetings planned at this time for June or July, the matter will be addressed in August.

LHC MINUTES 5-20-19 APPROVED

TOWN GREEN:

Linnea Lakin Servey spoke to the LHC regarding the work done by members of a citizens' group seeking an appropriate and thoughtful plan for the future of the Town Green. An article was brought to Town Meeting on May 6th through a citizen's petition. The amended article to keep the Town Green as open space was defeated by a slight margin. Fifty-nine voters wanted to keep the Green as clear and open space and 76 did not. The vote was "non-binding" and the BOS took the side of the those who voted against keeping the Green as open space.

The citizens' group will continue to pursue obtaining copies of proper by-law regulations and building permits for the Netflix gazebo currently on the Green from the Building Inspector and Town Planner. The Commission on Disabilities (COD) chair is involved regarding handicapped accessibility. Further, concerns were raised about increased traffic, adequate parking, excessive noise levels, and, public safety as well as the incompatibility of the gazebo structure with those surrounding it.

Beyond all this, the LHC is concerned that maintenance and upkeep of this structure will cost the town more if located on the Green than if located in the playground area where it would come under the recreational budget and possible monies from grants.

This matter will be pursued.

EXHIBIT ROOM & HOSMER DOLLHOUSE PROJECT:

Marcia Jakubowicz reported she has given an updated list for the Lancaster Historical Society (LHS) to review for purchases needed to complete the houses. She also has two people willing to have her come and view their dollhouse furnishings, which might be useful.

PROJECT FOOTSTONE:

Marcia Jakubowicz said she has not been able to get into the cemetery due to poor weather. Heather Lennon will pursue getting more help to keep the Old Settlers' Burial Ground (OSBG) free of pine sprouts.

ROWLANDSON ROCK & TOWN POUND PROJECTS:

Heather Lennon reported that the recent meeting she had with Eagle Scout candidate Nolan Stocker went well. She is waiting for information regarding his timetable with a goal of finishing the work in August. Joan Richards has spoken to John Farnsworth regarding finding medium boulders for marking boundaries on the Rowlandson site and is awaiting contact information. She also volunteered to contact Nolan Stocker for input regarding signage for the area, which has deteriorated since being placed in 2003. Heather Lennon will pursue a quote for the cost of a new more durable sign with Mary Zoll of Regonini-Zoll Monuments in Clinton. DPW Supt. Kevin Bartlett gave permission for the scouts to use the dumping area in Eastwood Cemetery to bring debris from the two sites as they are being cleared.

MARKERS & SIGNS PROJECT:

Amy Brown said her schedule has been very busy but she has the signs needing repair and attention organized into categories by type. LHC members agreed to pursue getting information available from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MA DOT) regarding how they repair the signs erected in 1930.

COLLECTION MANAGEMENT PLAN – DISASTER COMPONENT

Joan Richards sent an email to the Fire Chief who apparently passed it on to TML Director Joe Mule. The LHC hopes to work jointly with TML staff on creating a plan as there are similarities within the collections and therefore similarities in how they should be handled in the event of a disaster.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The LHC office will be open by appointment only in June and July. Heather Lennon will keep the LHC informed if a meeting is needed. At this time, the next scheduled meeting for the LHC is on August 26th at 6:30 p.m. in the LHC Office.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was by made by Marcia Jakubowicz at 7:40 pm. Joan Richards seconded the motion, a vote was called for and it carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Richards, Recorder for the meeting.