

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Office in the Town Hall. Attending were: Ron Bullock, Dave FitzGerald, Dan Hamilton and Louise Garwood. Dick Rossman presided.

OLD BUSINESS

Website- Dan has compiled a chart which shows the number of "visits" on our website, breaking them down by day, month, etc. It is a strikingly large amount. He has also removed the now obsolete material about White Christmas.

Treasurer's Report- Anne-Marie provided a written report.

H.S. Scholarship- Louise has prepared a draft of the revised Scholarship application form, and it was reviewed adding a few minor changes in wording, etc. hopefully to be finalized in time for the early January deadline for it to be given to the High School. Included in it will be a provision that essays may be submitted by email. Also, a press release must be ready by early January.

Lucy Stone- Still waiting for MHC approval. Also, a brief mention of the solar panel installation being proposed for the area near the Birthplace. A hearing is scheduled for Tuesday evening 12/11.

Old Indian Cemetery- The Fannins were apparently not able to complete Phase 3 due to bad weather. So hopefully will resume in Spring.

Methodist Cemetery- The Fannins will work on it during the Winter.

Collapsed Structure- Now that the site has been cleared, the question of how it will be used arises. Dick will write a note to the selectmen expressing the Commission's hopes of having a park or some similar form of open space in that location.

Town Hall Maintenance- Dick showed us a 10-Year Plan (maintenance), which was created in 2005, as an update to the original 2001 Plan. Some of the items have been done. We went through the remainder, putting them in order of priority. In general, it was agreed that the maintenance issue should be presented to the selectmen as a shared issue, and perhaps they could be invited to a joint meeting to discuss it. Other thoughts- could we pay Bernie Bouvier to do an evaluation? Should we contact MHC about the issue, perhaps request an inspection? possibility of applying for a new grant? To be discussed further at next meeting.

Demolition Delay Bylaw- We went through the sample bylaw provided by Jesse, making a few changes to make it more applicable to West Brookfield. A demolition delay bylaw is recommended in the Master Plan.

Rob Lyon Presentation- The presentation by Rob Lyon at the Library will be sometime next year, date to be determined.

Master Plan Implementation Committee- Dick provided that committee with information on what the Historical Commission has done. He has prepared a map, based on the assessor's map, showing in detail the area covered by the Center Historic District and the later Railroad Historic District.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave announced his decision to retire as a member of the Commission, effective by year-end.

Meeting adjourned ca. 9:00 P.M. Next meeting January 2, 2019, at 7:00 P.M., Historical Commission Office, Town Hall

Respectfully submitted, Dave FitzGerald, Secretary

P.S. A personal note: It has been a privilege to have been a member of the Commission these past 18 years and pleasure working with everyone. I wish each and every one of you the best, both personally and in your work on the Commission.