

WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

WBHC Meeting Minutes: 1/2/19 7:00 – 8:40 PM WBHC Office, Town Hall

Members Present: Dick Rossman, Louise Garwood, Dan Hamilton, Jesse Morrison, Anne-Marie Nolan,
Ron Bullock

Presiding: Dick Rossman Secretary: Ron Bullock

Guests: Debora Blodgett, Rebekah DeCoursey

The commission members welcomed our guests, Debora Blodgett and Rebekah DeCoursey with introductions all around. The meeting began with a review of the goals set for 2018 and their present status. The discussion continued with a look forward to the Commission goals for 2019. See page 3 for more details on this.

OLD BUSINESS:

Website Update- Copies of a chart displaying number of hits to the WBHC website is available. (app. 2000/day) We will be paying out a \$20.00 annual fee for our domain name soon to GoDaddy. Lucy Stone ornaments are still listed for sale on the website. Dave Fitzgerald is sending Dan digital copies of our last five years of minutes to be uploaded to website.

Treasurer's Report- Anne-Marie's report for 12/31/18 showed no change from the month before.

H.S. Scholarship- Louise submitted a finalized Scholarship Application form and a press release. The eligibility and scope of the scholarship was expanded to include, besides Quaboag Regional High School, school-choice students, home schooled students, and independent school students. Concentrations in History and History related areas of study are preferred. The press release will be sent to Turley Publications and the Spencer New Leader. The application form will be available on the commission website.

Lucy Stone- Still waiting for MHC approval. As an aside, the solar panel array being considered for property near the Lucy Stone home site will be discussed in a January 15th meeting, 6:00 PM in the lower level meeting room at Town Hall. There is some confusion over the recorded deeds for some of the parcels of land involved in the proposed project.

Old Indian Cemetery- The Fannins sent an email update. They will be working in the cemetery this winter as weather permits.

Methodist Cemetery- The Fannins expect this work to be done later this coming spring.

Collapsed Structure- Dick will attend selectman's meeting about this. Jesse will write a short letter expressing the commission's interest in the use of this property for Dick to bring to the meeting.

Town Hall Maintenance- Dick sent a letter of concerns to the selectmen on behalf of the commission on the town's obligations to fulfill the requirements of the ten year maintenance plan updated in 2005. There has been no reply so far. There was discussion on how the commission should proceed. Dick will continue to engage the selectmen on this matter. The possibility of acquiring a new grant was discussed.

Demolition Delay Bylaw- Jesse and Rebekah have both worked on this bylaw. Jesse will make some suggested changes and send out a copy to the members and Rebekah and Debora. After review, Dick will send the document along with a cover letter to the Planning Board. Their next meetings will be on Jan. 14, and Feb. 11.

Library Programs- Rob Lyon's Ice Skating presentation will be on Tuesday, Feb. 19th at 3:00 PM at the library. The possibility of supporting a Judith Kalaora program on Hedy Lamarr will be discussed next meeting. The commission plans to partner with the Quaboag Historical Society in sponsoring a History on the Road show from Sturbridge Village to take place at the elementary school.

Master Plan Implementation Committee- Last meeting was canceled. Dick will be presenting material to them on Jan. 28th. Rebekah will email Dan about Dick's official appointment.

NEW BUSINESS:

Quaboag Plantation Trail- Dick sent email to Carol Plumb of the Brookfield Historical Commission about collaborating with them to establish this trail.

Inventory of Commission Property- submitted by Dick.

Letter to the England Trust- A thank you letter to the England Trust will be sent.

West Brookfield Marijuana Bylaw- The ramifications of this bylaw were briefly discussed.

2018 GOALS AND RESULTS:

1. Website updated and improved: Dan took over administrative responsibilities with great success!
2. Finalize and print Indian Trail Guide: completed after 14 years.
3. Receive Phase 3 cemetery report: Weather and Minnie Fannin injury prevented this.
4. Begin final phase (4th) Old Indian Cemetery restoration: Phase 3 yet to be completed.
5. Reprint and update existing brochures; work on new guides: Lucy Stone event took precedence.
6. Attend Lucy Stone Homesite Historical Register Nomination: Changes required a 6/19/18 revised submission.
7. Sponsor Library Programs: WW II Women
8. Select 2018 Scholarship recipient: no qualified applicant.
9. Lobby for Town Hall maintenance: Railing, doors, interior and exterior painting done.
10. Plan and present Lucy Stone 200th Birthday event : An amazing 2 day event.

11. Propose Great Hall Balcony update: Other maintenance took priority.
12. Provide a member for Master Plan Implementation Committee: Dick Rossman.
13. Propose Demolition Delay Bylaw: Draft completed.
14. Additional Items: Proposed park at 5 Foster Hill Road; participated in granite marker installation at Franklin #68; participated in Asparagus Festival; some members attended 3 MHC workshops.

2019 GOALS:

1. Continue website updates.
2. Finish phase 3 and begin phase 4 Old Indian cemetery reconstruction.4. Assist with
Methodist Cemetery Historical Register Nomination prep.
5. Attend Lucy Stone Birthplace Historical Register Nomination Ceremony.
5. Sponsor Library & Elementary School programs.
6. Lobby for Town Hall Maintenance.
7. Participate in Master Plan Implementation.
8. Present Demolition Delay Bylaw at Town Meeting.
9. Select Scholarship Recipient.
10. Work with Brookfield Historical Commission on Quaboag Plantation Trail.
11. Work on Rock House Historical Register eligibility.
12. Update Historic District Boundary Map.
13. Redo shrubbery at Fairfax Marker on Foster Hill.