

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Office in the Town Hall. Attending were: Ron Bullock, Dave FitzGerald, Louise Garwood, Dan Hamilton, Jesse Morrison and Anne-Marie Nolan. Dick Rossman presided.

The meeting began with Dick distributing a handout listing Commission goals for 2017 and how many were accomplished. Also proposed goals for 2018. Dick will submit the Commission report to the Town Annual Report.

OLD BUSINESS

Website- Thank you to Dan for accepting website administrator and tech support responsibilities and to Ben Bullock for accepting backup responsibilities. Dan will pay annual domain name renewal fee (\$19.99), to be reimbursed. Bill for \$325 received from Doug Sumner for web hosting 11/16-12/17 unanimously voted to be paid from England Fund. Should we pay coming year web hosting costs (\$25/month for 12 months) in advance?

Indian Trail- Additional suggestions were made for the trail guide, and after receiving any additional suggestions from New Braintree and Warren, will be incorporated by Dan in a 3rd draft of the guide. Dan submitted invoice for \$64.98 for printing costs incurred to date, voted unanimously to be paid from Town Account.

Franklin Marker- Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report- Anne-Marie provided a written report (no changes to account balances.

Lucy Stone Site- Amy has indicated she hopes to be finished by end of February.

Old Indian Cemetery- The Fannins say just a few more stones need to be done to complete Phase 3.

Methodist Cemetery- The Fannins have begun work on it.

Master Plan- Dick distributed some sheets containing its main provisions. Of them, a demolition delay bylaw seems a possibility for being accepted. A volunteer from the Commission is requested to serve on the implementation committee.

H.S. Scholarship- There is a new guidance counselor, Eric Urban, at the high school, and Anne-Marie will work on providing him a new application form which is more specific about requirements for eligibility, i.e. an intention to pursue subjects related to history.

Collapsed structure- No grant has been received yet. Apparently no grant will be made unless a use is specified for the property after demolition. Ideas may be brought at next selectmen's meeting 1/16.

Town Hall Maintenance- Repairs to railing, doors, etc. still needed. Commission will continue to remind selectmen of need.

Library Program- Program on WWII Women scheduled for May 24th. Commission will pay \$200.00 (1/2 of \$400.00 cost).

Antiquarian Society Tour- On hold until repairs to building are completed.

Lantern Tour- Plan to walk over route of tour in future when feasible.

Quaboag Plantation Path- Something to be done in future.

NEW BUSINESS

As the year 2018 will mark the 200th anniversary of Lucy Stone's birth, plans are being made for the celebration. Dan has already been in contact with Moira Hickey concerning her possible participation, and the Commission unanimously agreed that he can let her know we will support her efforts, as able. Also, he has been in contact with Judith Kaloara about doing a presentation at the West Brookfield Congregational Church on Sunday August 12th. A provisional contract has been made confirming that date, and Dan has paid the required deposit of \$200.00 (out of the \$465.00 total cost of the performance). The contract will be finalized, and it was unanimously voted to reimburse Dan from the England Fund. On the previous day, Saturday August 11th, many events are planned, including a talk/tour by Joelle Million. Dick distributed a handout specifying plans and people, etc. to be contacted. Among other things, the hope that a 2018 White Christmas ornament depicting the Lucy Stone can be made available for the August celebration. Many other possibilities.

Presentation on the Native American Adena site in Brookfield is scheduled for 2/13/18 at 6:00 P.M. at the Brookfield Town Hall (snow date 2/20).

Meeting adjourned ca. 9:15 P.M. Next meeting Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:00 P.M., Historical Commission Office, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave FitzGerald, Secretary