

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission office in the Town Hall. Attending were Ron Bullock, Jesse Morrison, Anne-Marie Nolan, Louise Garwood, Rob Lyon, Dan Hamilton, with Dick Rossman presiding. Dan Hamilton agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: the detailed map created by Louise of the West Brookfield Center Historic District and Extension is now available on the website. The Commission member listing has been updated. Flyers of the upcoming library programs are posted as well. The scholarship award winner will be listed online after June 5.

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

H.S. Scholarship: The Commission voted to award two scholarships this year; the recipients are Robert Wilson and Katelyn M. Maskell of Quaboag Regional Middle High School. The Awards were presented to them on June 5, 2019 and a press release sent from the Historical Commission to the Quaboag Current and the Spencer New Leader.

Lucy Stone Nomination: Amy Dugas will continue to work on the nomination and address the new requests from MHS.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins report that they have completed 70% of the planned work and expect to finish it by the end of the summer.

Methodist Cemetery: The Fannins have communicated that they are pausing the process of nomination due to their understanding from another client that the lack of a specific deed showing the transfer of the cemetery to the town will disqualify the nomination. The commission discussed the options and will obtain an opinion from a title company. Dan will send relevant property deeds found in research to Jesse who will contact the title company. With more information, we could consider asking the Selectmen for a meeting with Town Counsel.

Collapsed Structure: No further developments to report.

Town Hall Maintenance: We are waiting to hear an update on the process of the assessment from Bob Haveles Architectural Insights. Dick was in contact with Warren Roofing regarding the roof of the old ambulance garage section and was told that the warranty would be up this year. An inspection will be scheduled by the roofing company.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse reviewed and discussed the draft of the bylaw with the zoning and building inspectors. Jessie will revise the draft to reflect their discussion and resubmit to them for their review. We will attempt to have an agreed upon draft to share with the Planning Board at their next meeting on July 15, 2019.

Master Plan Implementation: Dan has made the map available on the Commission website. Louise will wait until Fall for the printing of the large size map, as well as the poster size description of the Historical Commission and the current members.

Quaboag Plantation Trail: We have not yet heard from the Brookfield Historical Commission of a walking inspection date. Dan will contact Kermit Eaton and ask for an update.

Library Programs: The library with support from the Historical Commission and the Quaboag Historical Society will present Rob Lyon's program on 19th Century Country Music on June 19th at 3:00 P.M.

The Commission will also support the library's summer reading program on the space program and the fifty-year anniversary of the landing on the moon by sharing in the presentation of Judith Kalaora's *History at Play* production of "CHALLENGER - Soaring with Christa McAuliffe" on Monday, July 29th, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.

Dick shared flyers on a series of possible musical programs offered by a group in Springfield known as Premiere Entertainment. Dan will learn more of their programs and the potential costs of each.

Cannons within Pine Grove Cemetery: Dan showed the in-progress report with photos, details and history of the cannon, and how they came to West Brookfield in 1907. Rob and Dan will continue to work on the report, and when completed, offer a copy to the Cemetery Commission. The suggestion was made to arrange a meeting in the fall with Mike Seery, the clerk, and the other current commission members and review and discuss the cannon and any possible steps needed for maintenance and protection.

Asparagus Festival: Good weather, a large attendance, and participation by many current and former Commission members contributed to a successful and memorable event.

Ayers Memorial: Anne-Marie and Louise reported the completion of work on the landscaping around the memorial. She has already sent a thank you note to Dave Tomasino for his generosity and support, as his staff did the work. Anne-Marie will take a picture of the completed memorial area for our records and Dan will put in on the website.

Archivist: Dan reported that he has not yet contacted a possible archivist expert.

Fort Gilbert Marker Sign: Dick reported that the sign has been removed.

Office Supplies: Dan and Anne-Marie have coordinated an initial order of archival storage materials from Gaylord, as well as a selection of binders for general use.

The Boston Post Cane: The current symbolic holder of the cane, Alice Jay, age 104, now a resident of the Quaboag Rehabilitation Center, was featured in the Center's recent newsletter. A copy of which was donated to Commission by Bonnie Holske for inclusion in Alice's Boston Post Cane folder in the Commission Office. Dick reported that the symbolic pins representing the cane are in the Commission Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Motions: A motion was unanimously passed to pay \$235 from the England Fund to History at Play for the Christa McAuliffe program at the library on July 29th. A motion was unanimously passed to use the current balance of \$321.98 in the Town Account to pay for the purchase of archival storage materials and other office supplies.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Kermit Eaton of the Brookfield Historical Commission had submitted to us a copy of a current project in development in Brookfield; reviewing and determining the oversight authority for preservation and restoration of the town's memorials, historical sites, signage, etc. One possible goal is to coordinate and share the project with the other plantation towns. Dan

suggested we review the document and discuss it further in the fall. Rob suggested a local example he was concerned about; the stone horse tie-up posts. He had seen an example of a broken one in town and wondered who was responsible for the repairs. We will review the situation and learn more.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:47 P.M. Next meeting Wednesday, September 4, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. Historical Commission Office, Town Hall. The Public is welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Hamilton, acting Secretary