

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission office in the Town Hall. Attending were Ron Bullock, Jesse Morrison, Louise Garwood, Dan Hamilton, with Dick Rossman presiding. Dan Hamilton agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: Dick reported that Amy Dugas of the Quaboag Historical Society had contacted him with the information that the Society is now offering free memberships and asking if we would post the news on our website. Dan will do so. Dan will also add the upcoming White Christmas event to the website calendar. The Home page now includes a slide show of vintage photographs, including newly available photographs of the Jedidiah Foster House taken in 1899.

Treasurer's Report: Anne-Marie provided a written report. All fund balances are unchanged from the June meeting report.

Dick has written a letter to the England Trust management group, to review the needs of the Trust so we can best coordinate with the town. Ann Malloy from the management group has verbally agreed to write a letter assuring the Commission that any gift from the England Trust is without limitation or restriction as to the Commission's use.

H.S. Scholarship: Louise will review the language of the scholarship announcement, and qualifications page for next year and submit her revisions to the Commission at the next meeting.

Lucy Stone Nomination: Amy Dugas will continue to work on the nomination revision and address the new requests from MHS, anticipating completion in October.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins report that they have completed Stage 3 of the planned work. Documentation should be completed by the end of the year. The additional cost for the gravestone restoration and repair is \$800, over and above the original amount. The Commission will wait until the next meeting to authorize the payment.

Methodist Cemetery: Jesse reported that the title search through his recommended specialist would cost \$350. Jesse and Dan will meet and review and prioritize the land deeds and plans documentation to submit. The Commission will wait until the next meeting to authorize the funding.

Town Hall Maintenance: We are waiting to hear an update on the process of the assessment from Bob Haveles Architectural Insights. Dick will contact Bob for further information.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: no further developments.

Master Plan Implementation: Dick reported on the continuous discussions being held by the Master Plan committee involving various bylaws. Louise will arrange for the printing of the large size map showing the area involved in the Master Plan, as well as the poster size description of the Historical Commission and the current members.

Quaboag Plantation Trail: There has been no further developments or communications from the Brookfield Historical Commission. We remain receptive to the idea and would like to support the efforts.

Library Programs:

Dan contacted a group in Springfield known as Premiere Entertainment and learned that their range of programs vary in cost from \$350 to 1500 each. We will review their programs and consider them. As the History at Play programs have proven quite successful in both attendance and quality, the Commission will review other of their offerings for possible fall or spring programs.

Cannons within Pine Grove Cemetery: Rob and Dan will continue to work on the report, and when completed, offer a copy to the Cemetery Commission. We will invite Mike Seery, the clerk, and the other current Cemetery Commission members to a future Historical Commission meeting to review and discuss the cannon and any possible steps needed for maintenance and protection. Mike has agreed to attend and is awaiting our specific date.

Ayers Memorial: Louise will plant some bulbs this fall for spring enhancement.

Fort Gilbert Marker Sign: Dick reported that the sign has not yet been replaced by the MA DOT.

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. They have arrived.

The Boston Post Cane: Dick reported that the symbolic pins representing the cane are in the Commission Office, in the filing cabinet folder for the Cane.

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. Members were encouraged to consider specific items and topics for continued discussion at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Dan Hamilton was unanimously voted to be Secretary of the Commission.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:25 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, Secretary