

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

OLD BUSINESS

Website- Dan has posted White Christmas information (including ornament). He invites all members to look over the site and advise him of any possible corrections or improvements to be made.

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

H.S. Scholarship- Considerable time was spent on revising the application form. The main change is that the scholarship will now be awarded based upon an essay completed by the applicant. The applicant may choose any of three possible historical persons and any of three possible historical places as topics for the essay. Louise agreed to write a draft of the revised application form for us to review, so it will be ready by the December meeting. There was also discussion of ways to better publicize the availability of the scholarship- newspapers, website, library, etc.

Lucy stone- Waiting for MHC approval.

Old Indian Cemetery- The Fannins say they hope to complete phase 3 by year's end (weather permitting).

Methodist Cemetery- Work is under way.

Collapsed Structure- The collapsed structure has been demolished (11/5) and the debris cleared (11/7).

Town Hall Maintenance- Commission members Dick, Dan and Dave attended a MHC sponsored workshop in Worcester on 11/2 on the benefits of historical preservation (The presenter Chris Skelly later sent a pdf of his presentation to all attendees, which Dick will forward to any Commission members who did not attend). A number of insights were gained. Especially helpful, we agreed, was that when opposition to preservation is encountered it is important to listen to the other person's point of view and try to find common ground. Ask their advice. Dick and Dan will be attending another MHC sponsored program in Lowell on 11/9.

NEW BUSINESS

Demolition Delay Bylaw- There was discussion of requesting a demolition delay bylaw for West Brookfield. Jesse provided us with a sample draft of the bylaw to look over.

Rob Lyon- Rob Lyon is proposing to do a program on the history of ice skating, to be held at the library. It was voted unanimously to support his program up to \$300, to be paid from England Fund.

Master Plan Implementation Committee- Dick has agreed to be a member.

MHC Historic Survey and planning Grant- a copy of the application form was received and reviewed. No action decided on.

Meeting adjourned ca. 9:00 P.M. Next meeting December 5, 2018, at 7:00 P.M., Historical Commission Office, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave FitzGerald, Secretary