

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, May 1, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dick announced the sale of 10 Lucy Stone Christmas ornaments.

Rob announced he had been sworn in as a Historical Commission member.

Rob announced that he would be performing his 19th Century Country Music program at the West Brookfield Senior Center on May 15th, 2019 at 3:00 P.M.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: A thank you was posted on the website for those who submitted applications and essays for the scholarship, as well as the announcement that the results would be posted in June. The flyer for the Hedy Lamarr Library Program is included in the Upcoming Events.

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

The Treasurer noted again that interest earned on any of the accounts for the past several years is not yet available from the town treasurer or the town accountant.

H.S. Scholarship: Discussion and evaluation of the submitted applications and essays was undertaken and completed, and the result will be announced in June. It was noted that the school's award ceremony is scheduled for the same evening as our next Commission meeting, June 5. Therefore, we will arrange to have someone at the school present the scholarship on our behalf. Anne-Marie said she has the award letter from past years to use as a guide for this year's presentation. It was also agreed to review the application criteria for next year.

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

Old Indian Cemetery: Phase 3 physical work by Fannin-Lehner will resume in the spring. Dick reported that the recent storm debris had been cleaned up thanks to prompt action by Mike Seery and his crew.

Methodist Cemetery: Dick has located the Assessor's Office Site Cards for the property and showed several examples. Dan reported that the Town Reports of 1975, 1976, and 1977 listed the cemetery as a line item in the financial expense reports. Jesse stated again that the property was likely subject to *Adverse Possession* (acquiring legal ownership based on continuous possession for twenty years.)

Collapsed Structure: Dick reported that he attended the most recent meeting of the Planning Committee on Monday, April 30, and brought up the possibility of the town purchasing the land and developing parking facilities and the Commission's former proposal to use the land as a memorial park for Jedediah Foster and Lucy Stone. This usage would support the Planning Committee's goal of increasing parkland and trails in the area. The Committee said they would review the possibility and explore the situation with the bank, the owners, and the Selectmen.

Town Hall Maintenance: Bob Haveles, of Architectural Insights, Inc. of Palmer, joined Dick and Dan for several hours of Town Hall inspection, inside and out, on Tuesday, April 31, 2019. A number of areas were examined including the front entrance railing and granite, the front entrance doors and sills, the paint on all sides of the building, water damage apparent from roof and gutter leaks, brick facing pulling away from cinder block wall on the old ambulance parking garage area, flat roof substrate material showing, ADA walkway concerns at the rear entrance, emergency door closure issues within the building due to carpet or hinge alignment, stairway steps condition and loose trim, and exit light functioning. He will prioritize the items and areas when he submits the assessment of needed repairs. Bob was given documents concerning the 2001 repairs, application and completion of the MHS matching grant, and the photographs of the work done at the time. He will copy for his own use and review and return them to the Commission. We do not yet have a date for the completed assessment.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse reported that he will be meeting with Rebekah DeCoursey to discuss the possibility of adjusting the parameters of the previously drafted Bylaw and explore areas of compromise. It was acknowledged that the process of evaluation and delay would require the involvement of the Building Inspector.

Master Plan Implementation: Louise showed samples of her Historic Center District with Extension map of the area with the border and areas outlined. She will print a large poster size version and have it ready for display by the Commission at the upcoming Asparagus Festival. Dan will make the map available on the Commission website.

Quaboag Plantation Trail: The date of walking tour of the trail to assess the condition and needed cleanup has not yet been set due to the rainy weather. We hope to hear more from the Brookfield Historical Commission at next month's meeting.

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. Dan will work with the library and the QHS to create flyers for each of these presentations and have them ready for the Asparagus Festival.

Rob suggested exploring the availability of a performance by Neil Gustafson, the Isiah Thomas interpreter from the American Antiquarian Society, recently seen at the Quaboag Historical Society Annual Meeting and Luncheon.

Business Cards: Cards are now available in the Commission Office.

Cannons within Pine Grove Cemetery: Rob reported that he has contacted Jim Bender of the National Cannon Association about the cannons and has sent specifics to learn whether the cannons are on the registry. When we learn more, we will discuss how to proceed to best protect them. Dan will take photos of them at the earliest opportunity, and a folder will be started in the Commission Office to hold the information as it comes in.

Asparagus Festival: To be Held on Saturday, May 18th. The Commission will offer a table with historical information, brochures, maps, books for sale, and local resources. Ron, Dick, and Dan will get the tent, table, easels, books, pamphlets, and other materials to the Common on the morning of the event. Louise will provide a poster size version of the historic district map. Members were encouraged to host the table at various times through the day.

Ayers Memorial: Anne-Marie and Louise reported meeting with Jim Daley of the Highway Department and Dave Tomasino, the owner of the property, and discussing the removal and trimming of the existing plantings. The two men will discuss and decide who will do the work needed. The goal is to simply the plantings, plant grass seed, and perhaps spring bulbs.

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

Fort Gilbert Marker Sign: Dick reported that the sign has not yet been removed.

Office Supplies: Acknowledging the need for additional supplies such as folders, binders, labels, and an organization system to review and re-organize the Commission Office existing records and collections. Dan offered that he would like to purchase some archival storage materials to hold the vintage town records recently moved from the Town Clerk's safe to the Historical Commission Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Motions: A motion was unanimously passed to pay Rob Lyon the sum of \$155 for his Library Program performance of 19th Century Country Music on June 19, 2019 to be paid from the money gifted by the Quaboag Historical Society.

Outreach:

A motion was unanimously passed to send town resident and historian Bill Jenkins a get-well card from the Commission. Rob will do so on our behalf.

The Boston Post Cane: Discussion was held as to the current symbolic holder of the cane, Alice Jay, age 104, now a resident of the Quaboag Rehabilitation Center. The cane is in its case in the Town Hall, and the oldest resident of the town is presented with a pin to represent the honor. We need to insure we have a pin if the need arises.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:47 P.M. Next meeting Wednesday, June 5, 2019, at 7:00 P.M. Historical Commission Office, Town Hall. This will be the last meeting until September.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Hamilton, acting Secretary