

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Office in the Town Hall. Attending were: Ron Bullock, Dave FitzGerald, Louise Garwood and Dan Hamilton. Dick Rossman presided.

OLD BUSINESS

Website- The photos have been put in the appropriate places on the website by Dan. There were about 8 photos for which there was no obvious category, and it was decided to enter them under the category of "places and people of interest". An additional person to be entered under this category is the local artist, Jacob knight. Dan explained to us the various things he has had to do to upgrade the software (not done since 2001) and have the site functioning properly. He suggests changing the current administrator and tech support person (Lorna Sumner), and having a backup person (he will contact Ed Londergan about this). There was a suggestion of adding a "Calendar" to the site, which Dan said he would do, and he could be notified of events to be entered in it. Dan returned the photo file used for entering photos on the site.

Indian Trail- Dan has created a superb trail guide based on Dick's written directions and using them with a numbering system to correlate to points on a map. He handed out copies to all of us to check over before next meeting.

Franklin marker- Still waiting for marker to be installed. Possibility of bulb planting by Bill Jenkins.

Treasurer's Report- Essentially no change to account balances, except possible interest added. Dick will contact new accountant concerning England Fund.

Lucy Stone site- Amy will work on complying with the additional requirements when her farmer's market responsibilities end and she has more time.

Old Indian Cemetery- No news from the Fannins.

Methodist Cemetery- No news from the Fannins.

Master Plan- Dick attended the final meeting on 9/19. Of its many recommendations, adoption of demolition delay bylaw seems desirable and doable. Question as to whether town would support a local historic district bylaw. Dick recommends formation of an implementation committee to put Master Plan into meaningful operation. The Plan will be presented to the Planning Board at an upcoming meeting.

Collapsed structure- The decision about the grant will be made by the Attorney General's Office.

Town Hall Maintenance- It was recently discovered that part of the metal railing in front of the Town Hall has broken, and its repair will be a priority.

300th Anniversary Celebration- The final event of the Quaboag Churches 300th Anniversary celebration will take place at the Jedediah Foster Site on Foster Hill on Saturday October 14th. It will begin with a fellowship time at 10:00 A.M., followed by a service of about an hour's duration starting at 10:30. There will be light refreshments afterward.

Library Program- The library program featuring Judith Kaloara is scheduled for May 24, 2018 at 3:00 P.M.

NEW BUSINESS

Antiquarian Society schedule of events shown. Possibility of a tour by Commission members.

Possible lantern tour by Rob and Ruth Lyons for White Christmas.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:45 P.M. Next meeting Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 7:00 P.M., Historical Commission Office, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave FitzGerald, Secretary