

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission Office in the Town Hall. Attending were: Ron Bullock, Dave FitzGerald, Dan Hamilton, Anne-Marie Nolan and Barbara Rossman. Dick Rossman presided.

OLD BUSINESS

Website- Dave has not yet submitted an article on the upcoming 300th Anniversary (2017) of the early church, but will do so. Dan offered to add an "Upcoming Events" section to the site and to keep it updated.

Maps- The maps were picked up and paid for (\$160 total paid from the Town Account). They are now in the Commission Office, laid flat and stored in protective sleeves, and look great.

Indian Trail/Pynchon Grist Mill Site- Dick wrote out a new trail guide, based on the original CMRPC guide, modified by the trip we took on 6/22, using Dan's notes. He asks us to look it over, for any changes, additions, etc. we might have.

Scenic Road Signs- It was ascertained by Dick that there are a total of 289 property owners on the scenic roads in town. It was unanimously agreed to send scenic road brochures to all of them. Since there are enough brochures to do this (although more will be needed eventually to replenish supply), and enough envelopes, it will only be necessary to pay postage. Accordingly, it was voted unanimously to purchase 300 stamps, the \$141 cost to be paid from the Town Account. Dick will write the letter to accompany the brochures.

Franklin Marker- Nothing to report.

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

H.S. Scholarship- Anne-Marie re-wrote the application form, based on what we had discussed earlier, and gave us a copy. It is more specific about the requirements. Also, it was decided that a newspaper article to stimulate interest in the scholarship should be submitted in January prior to the application process.

Old Indian Cemetery- The Fannins are expected to be at the cemetery this coming Thursday (13th), and Dick will speak with them about completing phase 2 of the project, which is behind schedule.

Lucy Stone Site- A new sign at the site is in progress.

Methodist Cemetery- Dick will request Louise provide update on work.

Library Program- Reportedly, there was not a good attendance at the recent program by Judith Kaloara on Christa McAulliffe.

Collapsed Structure- Reportedly, the town is working on it.

Old Photos- A thank you to Mike Cummings was sent by Barbara.

Opacum Trust Dinner- Dick and Barbara attended, and reported a good attendance and event well received.

On 10/8 at 7:00 P.M. there will be a Memorial Concert in honor of Donald Boothman at the Stone Church in Gilbertville, featuring Malcolm Halliday organist, Juliana King violin and Seong-Heui Jeon vioncello.

NEW BUSINESS

As reported in the newspaper, a naval ship has been named the Lucy Stone. It will be commissioned in 2021.

As Craig Burgess has not been able to attend meetings due to other commitments and increased family responsibilities, he has agreed to become an associate member, and Dan Hamilton has agreed to take his place as a member.

QHS will sponsor an historical bus tour on 10/15, starting at 11:30 A.M. from the elementary school.

A thank you to Ed Londergan for recent articles on history submitted to the newspaper.

We have learned from Dave Cameron that plans are being made for the demolition of the corset factory. The general feeling on the Commission, however, appears to be that there isn't much we can do about it.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:30 P.M. Next meeting Wednesday, November 2, 2016 at 7:00 P.M., Historical Commission Office, Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave FitzGerald, Secretary