

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, March 9, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the Commission office in the Town Hall. Attending were Dan Hamilton, Anne-Marie Nolan, Rob Lyon, Jesse Morrison, with Dick Rossman presiding.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Town Hall Maintenance: The Commission has received the final report from Bob Haveles of Architectural Insights, along with the invoice. Dan has sent email copies of the report to each member. Hard copies of the report will also be distributed to each member, along with copies for the office files. Jesse will review and finalize the draft of the cover letter to the Board of Selectmen. Commission members have each agreed to sign the letter. Dan will print out the letter on Commission letterhead and have it available for signatures later this week. When completed, printed copies of the report along with the letter will be delivered to the Board of Selectmen for their review. We will then coordinate with Bob Haveles and ask to be scheduled with Bob at an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting in April to allow for questions and further discussion of the report.

Website: The website and the calendar of events are continuously updated as needed.

Treasurer's Report: Anne-Marie submitted a financial report as of February 2020.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie reported that there has been no response from her request for additional information from one of last year's winners, and no response at all from the second winner. After discussion, it was decided to send another letter to each of last year's winners reminding them of the original scholarship payment conditions and setting March 31, 2020 as a deadline for their response.

Lucy Stone Nomination: Amy Dugas has completed the revised application and it was mailed on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We now await a response from the State.

Old Indian Cemetery: Phase 3 has been completed and phase 4 will commence in the Spring. Discussion was had with Mike Seery, of the WB Cemetery Commission regarding signage to be placed at the two major town cemeteries disallowing metal detecting on the cemetery grounds. Mike had suggested the use of bronze-plated signage and the Historical Commission agrees. Dan will Mike know that.

Methodist Cemetery: Dan reported that he visited the Boston University School of Theology Library on February 19<sup>th</sup>, reviewing the paperwork available from the Brookfield Episcopal Methodist Church 1843-1880 and was unable to find any reference to the Ragged Hill Church or Cemetery. After discussion, it was decided to contact the Fannins again about the nomination for the Historical Register and suggest proceeding with our current knowledge and documentation. It was decided not to pursue the option of obtaining a court ruling of Adverse Possession.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse has arranged a meeting with Rebekah DeCoursey and Gary Simeone next Tuesday, the Town Building Inspector to review and discuss the bylaw.

Master Plan Implementation: Dick reported that there was no meeting of the Committee in February, that their next meeting will be later in March, when discussion on the Community Preservation Webinar and resources will continue.

Library Programs: Coordinating the procedures and timing of invoices and payments for each program between the library, the town, and the individuals involved, is still in flux. Further communication is

needed with all parties. In order to coordinate with the probable support of the Quaboag Historical Society, the Commission will determine the amount of our financial commitment for the August 18<sup>th</sup> *Suffragettes in Corselettes* program at the April 3 meeting.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Louise distributed inventory sheets by email allowing members to fill in information as researched. When the weather improves, Rob and Dan will begin visiting hitching posts and other candidates for the database.

Professional Book Scanning: An inventory of candidate items will need to be completed, discussed and prioritized prior to engaging a scanning service. It was decided to begin with a workday on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 A.M. to Noon at the Commission Office to organize and review books, paperwork, and documents in the office.

Mass Preservation Seminar: Dick is waiting to hear from Jennifer Doherty, Historic Preservation Planner about scheduling a meeting and the approximate cost of a plan for W. Brookfield.

Town Report: Dick had previously submitted an article for the 2019 Town Report on the proceedings of the Historical Commission and did so again when requested by the new Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen.

The Asparagus Festival will be held on May 16<sup>th</sup> on the Town Common. As a Founding Partner of the Festival, The Commission will not be required to pay for a space.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dick announced the appointment of a new Administrative Assistant to the Board of Selectmen; Donna Ryel.

Dan announced that the Town of North Brookfield had recently formed an Historical Commission. He will get more information on the members and officers. It was suggested we then send a congratulatory letter to the new Commission.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:21 P.M. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 3, 2020**, at 7:00 P.M. Historical Commission Office, Town Hall. The Public is welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Hamilton, Secretary