

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the Great Hall in the Town Hall, following current Covid 19 distancing restrictions. This was the first meeting since the Town Hall was closed mid-March due to the pandemic. Attending were Dan Hamilton, Anne-Marie Nolan, Rob Lyon, with Dick Rossman presiding.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Town Hall Maintenance: Due to the Covid 19 interruption of normal town business, a meeting with the Selectmen to review and discuss the Evaluation by Bob Haveles of Architectural Insights has not yet been scheduled. Dan confirmed the mid-March delivery to the Selectmen's office of the Evaluation and the accompanying letter signed by the Commission members. Dick will request that the Review take place at an upcoming Selectmen meeting on Tuesday evening, October 6, offering Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup> as a backup date. Bob Haveles has agreed to attend the meeting. Upon confirmation of the meeting schedule, Dick will notify the commission members and Mr. Haveles.

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

Treasurer's Report: Anne-Marie submitted a financial report ending August 31, 2020.

H.S. Scholarship: The 2020 winner of the 9th annual scholarship is Kaitlyn Howard of West Brookfield. One of the winners of the 2019 Scholarship, Robert Wilson, submitted the required proof of enrollment for his second semester and was sent a check for \$2000. We have had no communication from the other 2019 winner.

Lucy Stone Nomination: Amy Dugas has completed the revised application, per the request of the State. She will confirm the re-submission date.

Old Indian Cemetery: the Fannins continue their work on the site, notifying us that they will return on October 1st and 2nd. The Cemetery Commission was notified of the need for signage to deter metal-detecting on the grounds of the cemetery.

Methodist Cemetery: The Fannins report no progress in determining whether the Town's history of maintenance and budget inclusion will satisfy the ownership requirement for Historic Site application.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: the process of meeting and discussion has been interrupted by the Covid shutdown.

Master Plan Implementation: the process of meeting and discussion has been interrupted by the Covid shutdown.

Library Programs: On site Programs have been cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic. The Commission previously voted by email not to provide funding for the Library's substitute online streaming programs.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Rob inquired about the possibility of repairing a hitching post he had located. Discussion was held as to how best to determine the ownership of the hitching posts that still stand within the town limits. It was suggested that information might be found in the photographs of the house inventory books. When the list of standing hitching posts is complete, Dan will take photographs to document them.

Professional Book Scanning: the process of inventory and selection has been interrupted by the Covid shutdown. It is not likely to occur this year.

Mass Preservation Seminar: Likely due to the Covid shutdown, Dick is still 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: Copies of the Town Report are now available in the Town Hall.

The Asparagus Festival was cancelled due to the Covid pandemic, as was White Christmas.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Dick distributed new keys to the Commission Office. A motion was made and unanimously accepted to reimburse Dick \$17.94 from the Town Account for the cost of the duplicate keys.

On Thursday, July 23, 2020, The Town of West Brookfield presented the Boston Post Cane memorial pin to its eldest living citizen, Anna (Cichon) Schultz, who was born on March 5, 1920. Dick will order the name plaque to be added to the Cane display case in the town hall.

The Commission previously voted by email and unanimously approved an amount of \$5000 from the England Fund to be given as a donation to the East Quabbin Land Trust to assist in the purchase of additional property adjoining the Pynchon Mill site.

Dick reported that the signage design for the Pynchon Mill Site created by Louise was submitted to Cynthia Henshaw of the East Quabbin Land Trust for review. There has been no response to date.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:05 P.M. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 5, 2020**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Great Hall at the Town Hall. The Public is welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Hamilton, Secretary