

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the Lower Meeting Room in the Town Hall, following current Covid 19 distancing and masking restrictions. Attending were Dan Hamilton, Anne-Marie Nolan, Rob Lyon, Jesse Morrison, with Dick Rossman presiding.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Town Hall Maintenance: A Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for tomorrow evening, Tuesday, October 6, 2020. The Historical Commission and Bob Haveles of Architectural Insights will join the meeting about 7 P.M. for a review of Mr. Haveles's previously submitted Town Hall "Existing Building Evaluation". Dick offered a preview of his own planned remarks for that meeting, summarizing the history of the 2001 Massachusetts Historical Commission Matching Grant that provided for the previous painting of the Town Hall, and emphasizing the Town's signed contract commitment for maintaining the building.

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

Treasurer's Report: Anne-Marie submitted a financial statement based on the recently provided accountings provided by the Town Accountant.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie will contact the school system in December and determine the specifics and scheduling of the 2021 scholarship application, likely dependent upon the Covid adjusted school class schedules.

Lucy Stone Nomination: Amy Dugas has completed the revised application, per the request of the State. The application was submitted during the last week of September 2020.

Old Indian Cemetery: the Fannins continued their work on the site, including placing clamps on a stone in repair. Dick will remove the clamps when appropriate. The Fannin's will continue their work next Spring.

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: Jesse will re-circulate the latest revision draft of the proposed Bylaw among the Selectmen, the Building Inspector, and Rebekah DeCoursey.

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. There are no commission sponsored events for the immediate future.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Rob discussed the possibility of repairing a broken hitching post he had located on Pleasant Street. He has recovered the top broken piece and has consulted with the Fannins as to the materials, tools, and procedure needed to mend it. He will get the street address for the property where the base of the post is set and we will determine the ownership, whether Town or private party, based on the information in the Assessor's Office. With written notification to and permission from the owner, he will proceed to repair the post. Dan will photograph the process for inclusion in the historic and cultural inventory in process. Dick will approach Louise about adding some material details to the Inventory template she had previously created.

Town Report: Dick has set aside copies of the Town Report for Commission members.

New Office Keys: Dick distributed a new office key to Jesse.

Boston Post Cane: Dick has taken a blank plaque from the Cane display case and arranged for it to be engraved with the name and date of presentation to Anna Schultz. The engraving is being done by Cormier's in Spencer and was paid for by Dick, who submitted an invoice to the treasurer. A motion was made and unanimously passed to reimburse Dick Rossman the amount of \$10.00 from the Town Account for the cost of the engraving.

Pynchon Mill Site: Dick reported that the real estate purchase of additional property adjacent to the Pynchon Mill Site has been completed and that Cynthia Henshaw was grateful to the Commission for our donation towards the purchase. She also expressed her approval and thanks for the design and wording of two signs for the site which Louise had created. Cynthia inquired whether it would be possible to add a third sign identifying and explaining the importance of the Old Bay Path Indian Trail which cuts through the property. Dan will review the Commission's trail guide brochure and submit material for the proposed sign. It was suggested that the signs be uniform in size and style.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was no new business to report.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:15 P.M. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 2, 2020**, at 7:00 P.M. in the Great Hall at the Town Hall. The Public is welcome.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Hamilton, Secretary