

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. via **Zoom**. Attending were Louise Garwood, Jesse Morrison, Heather Walker, Anne-Marie Nolan, with Dick Rossman presiding.

### **NEW BUSINESS PART 1**

Dick Rossman announced that Commission member Rob Lyon has resigned from being a full member but would like to continue as an Associate member, as he has more responsibilities at home and has no access to Zoom. Dick spoke to Rob and acknowledged that the Commission would like him to fully return once in-person meetings are held again. Also, Heather was officially sworn in as a full member of the Commission. A change in positions was made: Anne-Marie will take over as Secretary and Heather has agreed to the Treasurer's position.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Website: Dan sent an email stating that the Ionos bill for the Service Provider and Domain Name was \$108 for the 2021-2022 year which he paid. A motion was made and approved to reimburse Dan for this amount through the England fund account. Dan sent information regarding a Palmer company that offers hosting, WordPress and maintenance at a cost of \$35 or \$65 a month. Alternatives were discussed such as contacting Ben Bullock who worked on the website with Dan previously, or contacting the woman who does the Brookfield library website, or anyone who runs WordPress. Dick mentioned that he had spoken to a person who may be willing to do computer work **and** may be willing to join the Commission. Dick will follow up with him and Anne-Marie will email Ben Bullock to determine his interest. Dan will continue to put the minutes onto the website for now.

Treasurer's Report: Anne-Marie read a financial statement reflecting the following Fund balances as of January 31, 2021.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie contacted Quaboag Regional Middle High School, Tantasqua Regional High School, and Quabbin Regional High School and emailed the scholarship letter and application which was put on all their websites. Dan has added these on the Commission website. Louise will forward a press release to the local newspapers this week announcing the scholarship. A suggestion was made to contact Pathfinder and Bay Path High Schools.

We received all the necessary documentation from Kaitlyn Howard, last year's recipient. A check for \$2000 was mailed to her.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins will continue their work in the spring.

Methodist Cemetery: The Fannins will contact MHC to determine if the Town's history of maintenance and budget inclusion will satisfy the ownership requirement for Historic Site application.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse sent his latest revision just before the meeting for review and discussion at the next meeting. He will also send the previous revision. Louise suggested that limiting the scope of the bylaw to the Center Historic District and Railroad Expansion properties would be more palatable to the BOS to accept a longer delay.

Master Plan Implementation: Dick has not heard of any upcoming meeting and will email Rebecca Cornell to find out.

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: Louise will resend the master inventory spreadsheet of WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITES, OBJECTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY for members to review and make comments. Rob Lyon is continuing his research of the hitching posts.

Pynchon Mill Site: Louise will get back to the files. She thought the sign at the Wendemuth Meadow may be appropriate as to graphics and rural feel. She will resend the files for members to review.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Louise said that the eligibility portion is ready to be sent out to MHC. Dick felt that the Commission should contact the Trustees first to be sure they are on board. Louise will email Jocelyn Forbush at the Trustees about this.

Town Hall Maintenance: MHC GRANT APPLICATION: MJ Haesche has offered to be the Local Project Coordinator (LPC) and Bob Haveles has agreed to be the architect. Discussion ensued and agreement was reached that the fees incurred should not be the Commission's responsibility. Dick stressed that the LPC was to prepare Sections 1 through 3 and the architect Section 4 on the application, both requiring payment. He and Louise plan to meet with the LPC on 2/2/21, then have a Zoom meeting with the architect to go over the application and get an estimate of their fees. These would then be brought to the Selectmen. Louise has drafted a letter of support to be mailed out to entities who use the Town Hall and support the project. Heather suggested asking the EQLT as well. Jesse suggested the community assist in the financing of the preservation project by fund-raising...flyers around town, GoFundMe page, etc. Discussion turned to setting the priority list of repairs or replacement. The front door, side door, pavers, granite front steps and railings, east side windows, and painting would be prioritized. The main building cost would be around \$35,000. Adding all costs would be around \$120,000 and with escalating costs could reach

\$140,000. Bob Haveles would like to have a Zoom meeting with LPC and Commission members. Dick will try to see if the town has a Zoom account.

It was suggested that there needs to be more meetings dealing with the grant application. Heather will send a link for a Zoom meeting to be held on **Wednesday, February 10, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.**

## **NEW BUSINESS PART 2**

Dick went over the 2019-2020 goals, most of which were achieved. He outlined the new 2020-2021 goals before the meeting terminated.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:20 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, March 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** as a **Zoom meeting.**

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary