

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

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Website: Anne-Marie contacted Ben Bullock about the possibility of his taking over the management of the HC website. He replied that he did not feel qualified and declined. Dan will continue to post minutes and oversee website until a replacement can be found.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of February 28, 2021. She was told by the Accountant that updated account balances would be emailed from the Treasurer in a few weeks.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie reported that the scholarship application was on Quaboag, Quabbin, and Pathfinder websites. Tantasqua gave hard copies to their 6 West Brookfield seniors. The Spencer New Leader posted the article on February 12, 2021. Louise will contact Ware River News and Quaboag Current again about publishing the article.

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

Methodist Cemetery: The Fannins were to contact MHC to determine if the Town's history of maintenance and budget inclusion will satisfy the ownership requirement for Historic Site application. Dick has not heard from them yet.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: As Jesse was not present, his latest revision will need to be addressed at the next meeting. Dick's major concern was the delay timeline for buildings already or eligible on the Historic Register.

Master Plan Implementation: Dick still has not heard of any upcoming meeting after 2 emails to Rebecca Cornell. It is hoped that the meetings will resume in the fall, if not before. \* After this meeting, Dick received an email that there would be a Master Plan Implementation meeting sometime this month.

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 sent the master inventory spreadsheet of WEST BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SITES, OBJECTS ON PUBLIC PROPERTY for members to make suggestions and/or fill in the details under each category. Members can leave their completed copies in the HC office.

Pynchon Mill Site: Louise has another idea about reformatting the signs and will forward these to Cynthia Henshaw. Dick will send the files he and Dan had worked on to Louise.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Louise reported that she had mailed out the eligibility portion with some corrections and the required CD to the MHC today. The Trustees which oversees the Rock House had written a letter of support. Louise will print out a copy of the application with photos for the HC files.

Town Hall Maintenance: MHC GRANT APPLICATION: At the BOS and the Advisory Board meeting, because the extra cost of \$22,500 for the Local Project Coordinator and the architect being more money than the Town would vote for since the Town already approved \$72,000, they thought the best thing to do was to make a

new article for the June Town Meeting to repurpose this \$72,000 for repairs to the Town Hall. Dick asked that the HC have a say as to the priority list. Discussion followed and it was decided that the HC members would organize a priority list to go over at the next meeting and Louise would then draft a letter with the recommendations.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc: A discussion was begun on purchasing a scanner for documents and books, an external hard drive, and a small fireproof box. Heather will do research on these. Dan will be asked for his suggestions as well.

Facebook page: Heather made a suggestion that the Historical Commission have a Facebook page to inform the town as to the purpose of the HC and generate interest in upcoming events, i.e. the Fannins, Rock House, library programs, etc. It would have a link to the HC website. Heather is willing to set up and run the page with one or two other administrators. This was met with approval.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:01 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** as a **Zoom meeting.**

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary