

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, June 13, 2021 at 7:03 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Heather Walker, Louise Garwood, Jesse Morrison, Mike Sroka, Melissa Sroka, and Anne-Marie Nolan with Dick Rossman presiding.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: Mike Sroka reported that he has been taking care of the website and has updated it with the June minutes. There have not been any inquiries. Mike will go to the Town Clerk's office to be sworn in as will all other members who haven't done so.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of August 31, 2021.

Proposed Estimated 2022 Fiscal Year Expenses (discussion only):

5TB Hard Drive (Staples)	\$ 119.99
Safe for Hard Drive	34.99
Computer for Office	550.00
Monitor/Mouse/Keyboard	220.00
Alternate- Laptop with Dock and Keyboard	1,000.00

H.S. Scholarship: There was more discussion on how to bring in more applicants, high school and/or graduate students. It was suggested to put it on the Historical Commission Facebook page and possibly on Bill Jenkins' Facebook page. More to be discussed at next meeting.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins worked at the cemetery today with Dick's help. They plan on coming back and hope to finish the field work this year. Also, Mike Seery from the Cemetery Commission is having a sign made forbidding the use of metal detectors in the cemetery.

Methodist Cemetery: Dick summarized all the communication to the Selectboard and Town Counsel that had been done so far about the cemetery ownership issue. Dan Hamilton's summary was forwarded to the Town Counsel, and Dan dropped off the flashdrive of the surveys and deeds. Dick was told to contact the Town Counsel for an update as there has been no progress. The Cemetery Commission does maintain the Cemetery every year and a worker has been there twice this year. Dick took Rebecca Acerra on a tour to see the cemetery.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse wrote a letter but has not received a response from Rebekah Cornell from the Planning Board. Jesse and Dick will email her again and a suggestion was made about attending a Planning Board meeting. Jesse volunteered to attend. Mike Sroka was brought up to date on this issue.

Master Plan Implementation: Nothing to report.

Library Programs: Library newsletter mentioned fall programming and Heather will now reach out to Holly Takorian.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Louise has updated the file and will continue to update as information is brought forth. To be continued.

Pynchon Mill Site: Dick reported that the forester employed by the EQLT had learned about Lemuel Gilbert from a 1990 survey map. Louise will look at the Registry of Deeds for information (Mass Land Records). EQLT has not responded about the signs.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Louise wrote a letter in June, then made a phone call, and sent another letter a couple of weeks ago with no response. Louise will make another phone call.

Town Hall Maintenance: Dick spoke to Diane Vayda today. The Commission agreed to send a note to the Selectboard about going outside to look at the building prior to a Selectboard meeting.

Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc.: Members were invited to look at the drawer Heather and Anne-Marie had been working on. This will be an ongoing project.

Facebook page: Heather reported that there are 120 followers now. It was suggested to post pictures of current events such as the Fannins working at the Old Indian Cemetery, White Christmas, etc.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: No report.

Historic District map: Louise will bring in the invoice for the lamination.

Jacob Knight Collection: Heather acquired 10 to 12 prints from Becker College, different sizes and all beautifully framed. Before distributing some of them to different towns, Heather suggested having an exhibition first, possibly at the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick gave each member a copy of the Open Meeting Law summary to review and a certificate of receipt of said summary to sign and return at the next meeting.

Dick will ask Rebecca Acerra to download and print the Lucy Stone National Historical Register document for Commission binder.

A motion was made and approved to place a quarter-page ad in the White Christmas booklet for \$25 from the Town account. Louise volunteered to design the ad.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:20 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary