

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Anne-Marie Nolan, Heather Walker, Louise Garwood, and guest Shannon Tweraser with Dick Rossman presiding.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Website: Nothing to report. Minutes have not been posted for October and November.

Town Clerk: Two members still need to be sworn in.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of November 30, 2021. Previous approved expenses include Old Indian Cemetery Phase 4, Methodist Cemetery nomination work, and scholarship. Motions were made and approved for purchases of a desktop computer, external hard drive, and a safe box to store hard drive.

H.S. Scholarship: Louise updated the essay portion of the application and is awaiting communication from Quaboag Regional to complete the scholarship letter. More to follow.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins came to work on the project and stated that they are halfway done with the 30 remaining stones. They probably will not return until spring 2022. They mentioned that more stones not included in this conservation project need treatment. The metal detector sign is scheduled to be coming.

Pine Grove Cemetery: Mike Seery informed Dick that the tree warden had given permission to National Grid to take down the hazardous trees.

Methodist Cemetery: Betsy Friedberg (MHC) discussed the ownership issue with the National Park Service. It was decided that since the town has been maintaining the cemetery since the 1970's, MHC and NPS would accept this as ownership by the town. A note explaining this should accompany the nomination when submitted. Minnie Fannin will start working on this after the holidays.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Nothing to report.

Master Plan Implementation: Nothing to report.

Library Programs: The library program "A Rendez-vous with Rachel Revere" by Judith Kalaora (History at Play) is to be performed in the spring with no date set yet. The library asked for a donation for the White Christmas raffle. Dick gave them a large map from the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 3 antique books.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: The members went over the packet and filled in pertinent sections. A letter should be composed and sent out to caretakers to verify the accuracy of this information.

Pynchon Mill Site: Dick showed a picture of one of the 4 signs from the site.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: No update.

Town Hall Maintenance: The gutters were cleaned by a West Brookfield fireman. It was suggested that the Commission be put on the Selectmen's January 2022 agenda to determine the maintenance plans and/or further advocate for the necessary maintenance.

Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc: Work is ongoing.

Facebook page: 133 followers. The Old Indian Cemetery photos with the Fannins were posted.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: Louise received a mailing that West Brookfield qualifies for resiliency grant funding. The CMRPC is assessing design and repair of all West Brookfield culverts in case of flooding.

Jacob Knight Collection: Nothing to report.

Wickaboag Valley Road: Dick sent a letter to the Selectmen about adding this road to the Scenic Roads. Anne-Marie has a list from the Assessors of Scenic Road home sales since 2016. A mailing needs to go out to new owners notifying them of the Scenic Road Act.

Quaboag Indian Village (East Brookfield): Dick and Anne-Marie walked the area on November 28 with Andre Cormier as a guide. Cynthia Henshaw is waiting for Andre Cormier's information to have the property appraised by the East Quabbin Land Trust.

Metal Detector Sign: Nothing to report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Adena Burial Site: Dick attended a Brookfield Historical Commission meeting and learned that the town owns the property (on National Historic Register) but is leery about putting up signage. A roller-skating building on site needs to be demolished but there is no current town funding. Project is at a standstill.

New Projects: Dick would like to update the street names and house numbers on the 1989 inventory data sheets as there have been changes. The houses also would need to be re-photographed as well.

New Goals 2022: New goals will need to be discussed at the next meeting.

We thank Shannon Tweraser for attending the meeting and wish her the best as she returns to college. She is welcome to come back and visit.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:21 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, January 3, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary