

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Anne-Marie Nolan, Heather Walker, Jesse Morrison, and Mike Sroka with Dick Rossman presiding.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: Mike has been putting in the minutes and would like to reformat with pictures and change some of the background seasonally. Mike will post the White Christmas event date and hours. One more member needs to be sworn in.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of October 31, 2021. She received an updated report from the Town Accountant.

H.S. Scholarship: Louise will update the essay portion of the application and the letter. Anne-Marie usually receives a letter from Eric Urban (Quaboag Guidance) in December detailing the dates for 2022.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins are coming next week, and Dick will inform members as to date and time. Dick has not heard from Mike Seery about some trees marked for removal in the Pine Grove Cemetery and has not seen any metal detector signs either. Dick will contact him again.

Methodist Cemetery: After leaving Betsy Friedberg multiple voicemail messages, Dick emailed her and attached a copy of what Dan had done as to the ownership issue. Dick received a reply today where she mistakenly thought the town was pursuing adverse possession. After some discussion, Dick will email her again explaining the situation and ask if it can go for Massachusetts Historic Register only rather than National Historic Register.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Rebekah Cornell will inform Jesse as to the next Planning Board meeting so he can be put on the agenda to discuss this bylaw. Jesse will ask Rebekah whether she has any knowledge of a general bylaw vs a separate bylaw and see what the difference is.

Master Plan Implementation: Nothing to report. Jesse will ask Rebekah Cornell as to its status.

Library Programs: Holly informed Dick that the HC contribution for the library program "A Rendez-vous with Rachel Revere" by Judith Kalaora (History at Play) will be less than stated earlier. The Commission will now pay \$275.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Louise emailed her update noting specific areas to be addressed.

Pynchon Mill Site: Cynthia Henshaw has the signs for the Pynchon Mill which will be put up before Sunday.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Betsy Friedberg hopes to get evaluation completed in the next few weeks.

Town Hall Maintenance: Dick, Louise, Jesse, the two Selectmen and Rebecca Acerra viewed the Town Hall prior to their meeting to see the condition of the building. Dick, Louise, Anne-Marie and Heather attended the BOS meeting on October 19th. The side door (paid from the Town maintenance account) was delivered but has not been installed. David Pierce was going to ask the North Brookfield Fire Dept to clean the gutters.

Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc. Work has begun again and the top drawer is finished.

Facebook page: 128 followers.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: Nothing to report.

Jacob Knight Collection: Holly Takorian (Library) said to contact her in the spring about displaying the collection. Heather will look to other local places with suggestions made by members.

Open Meeting Law Summary: All have been handed in.

Lucy Stone National Historic Register: Dick put the copy in a binder.

Books: Dick gave the 3 books to the library.

NEW BUSINESS

Highway superintendent Jim Daley suggested to Dick that Wickaboag Valley Road be designated as a scenic road. Copies of the Scenic Road Act were passed out. Dick will write to the BOS to request that an article be placed on the Special Town Meeting. It was suggested to have the Assessors put together a list of new owners.

Quaboag Indian Village (East Brookfield): Dick handed out maps of the 58-acre site with an explanation of its background. The East Quabbin Land Trust is considering the purchase of this property. Cynthia Henshaw of the EQLT will arrange a tour for Commission members and other interested people.

Mass Historic Grant: It is not feasible for the Historical Commission to apply for this grant due to the minimum project amount.

Metal Detector Sign: Heather mentioned that a metal detector sign was needed by the Bandstand on School Street. Dick will ask Rebecca Acerra for the name of the Common Committee chair. Once this is known, Jesse will write to the Committee asking permission to put up a metal detector.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:16 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary