

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, October 4, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Heather Walker, Louise Garwood, Jesse Morrison, with Dick Rossman presiding.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Website: Nothing to report. Dick reminded members who have not been sworn in to do so at the Town Clerk's office.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of September 30, 2021. She has emailed the Town Accountant for account updates and is awaiting a reply. Louise will email a copy of her check of \$25 for the White Christmas booklet ad to Heather.

Proposed Estimated 2022 Fiscal Year Expenses: to be researched by Mike Sroka

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
Digital recorder to be researched and decided upon at next meeting	

H.S. Scholarship: Discussion centered on adding the scholarship application to the Facebook page of Quaboag and other school districts, West Brookfield Facebook page, and a link to the application on the Historical Commission Facebook page. Also, a change was suggested regarding the essay topics: replace Charles Merriam and Quaboag River with Lucy Stone and King Philip's War. The letter would need to be updated for 2022. For now, the scholarship will continue to be awarded to high school students only.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins are unsure whether the cemetery will be finished this year due to the weather. They are coming next week and Dick will email members once he learns the date. Mike Seery is working on the metal detector signs and he was contacted about some trees marked for removal in the Pine Grove Cemetery.

Methodist Cemetery: Dick has not heard from Town Counsel as to ownership. After much discussion, Dick decided to ask Minxie Fannin to get in touch with Betsy Friedberg about this issue.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse and Dick received a response from Rebekah Cornell. Jesse will email Rebekah as to the next Planning Board meeting to address this bylaw and will email the Commission once he hears back.

Master Plan Implementation: Nothing to report.

Library Programs: Dick received an email from Holly Takorian about a library program "A Rendez-vous with Rachel Revere" by Judith Kalaora (History at Play). The cost is \$550 for the program and \$75 for travel. The date in 2022 is to be determined and the location would be the Great Hall. The Commission and the Quaboag

Historical Society would split the cost. A motion was made and approved to pay \$312.50 for this program from the England Fund.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: After the document is filled in, the next step would be to verify the current caretakers and the source of the funding. Members went through some of these tonight with questions about sites on private property. It was decided to draft a letter to send to caretakers.

Pynchon Mill Site: Louise sent genealogical information about Lemuel Gilbert to Dick. EQLT has made the signs which the workers will put in.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Nothing to report. Louise will make a call.

Town Hall Maintenance: Dick will contact Rebecca Acerra again about viewing the Town Hall prior to their next meeting. The Commission will ask to be put on the agenda on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc: Members will be informed as to when the next workday will be to continue the organization. Heather mentioned that Tuesdays are good for her.

Facebook page: Nothing to report.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness: Louise emailed members the 35-page report from the MVP.

Historic District map: Louise brought in 2 invoices for printing and lamination of overlay. A motion was made and approved to reimburse Louise \$13 from the town account.

Jacob Knight Collection: Heather will contact library now that they are open again.

Open Meeting Law Summary: Members signed their copies. Dick will hand them in to Rebecca Acerra.

Lucy Stone National Historic Register: Rebecca made a copy and Dick will put into a binder.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Dick showed books that may be of interest to the library.

Louise brought in the Rock House eligibility draft with cover letter to be put into a binder.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:32 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, November 1, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary