

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Anne-Marie Nolan, Heather Walker, Louise Garwood, Jesse Morrison, and guest Ryan Gough with Dick Rossman presiding.

OLD BUSINESS

Website: January minutes have not been posted yet. Anne-Marie will send Mike the scholarship information to be added to the website.

Town Clerk: Dick spoke with Sarah Allen who is retiring in May about Climate Control room access to preserve historical items. Members decided Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm was acceptable.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of January 31, 2021. The computer is ready to be installed by Northwest IT with Heather's input. Heather submitted the 2023 HC town budget amount to the accountant. A check was received from the England Fund for \$8,250.00. Dick sent a thank you note to the trustees. Dick mentioned that there are 15 History of West Brookfield books left. 457 out of the original 500 books have been sold and 14 were donated.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie forwarded the scholarship letter and application to Quaboag Regional, Tantasqua Regional, Quabbin Regional, and Pathfinder. There has been no incoming correspondence from Ms. Maskell.

Old Indian Cemetery: Dick brought in a box of photographs of gravestones, people, and events to the office. The Fannins have not determined how many other gravestones are in need of repair. No update on the metal detector sign.

Methodist Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse, Dick, and Louise met with the Planning Board on January 12, 2022 at which there was opposition to the proposed bylaw. Therefore, the Commission discussed making a change to a certain section but keeping the rest as is. Jesse will contact Jeff Taylor, Building Inspector, to ascertain how many demolition permits have been granted. Jesse will let members know when there is another Planning Board meeting.

Master Plan Implementation: Nothing to report.

Library Programs: No date set yet for the library program.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Louise heard from the Common and Quaboag Historical Society. QHS leases the railroad station from the town with shared responsibility. Dick heard from the Veteran's agent: no budget except the sale of the bricks. The library stated that repairs are done with the England Fund money. Jesse will write a letter to Elise Kowal from the Common Committee about the signs and monuments.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Louise sent an email to Ben Haley and will contact him again as she received no reply.

Town Hall Maintenance: Dick and Louise met with Selectmen about maintenance plans with little success. A carpenter did come and say that the front door can be fixed by replacing the sill and posts. Tonight the Commission named different contractors to see if any would be interested.

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

Facebook page: 30 new likes, 180 in all. Lucy Stone Day and the scholarship information will be added.

Jacob Knight Collection: Space is available at the library to exhibit the collection. Heather will pursue this.

Wickaboag Valley Road: Dick prepared an article to add Wickaboag Valley Road as a Scenic Road. Louise wrote a letter indicating the Scenic Road Act and a list of scenic roads to be mailed to the 151 new owners (2017-2021). Members each took lists of owners from which to address envelopes. They will be brought to the next meeting.

Metal Detector Sign: Jesse spoke with Elise Kowal. The Common Committee will put up the signs that the Commission designs and purchases. Dick will email Mike Seery about the design and then inform members as to his reply.

New Goals 2022: The list was emailed to the members.

NEW BUSINESS

5 Foster Hill Road: Louise mentioned that the land is now for sale rather than a spec house. After discussion it was proposed to contact Cynthia Henshaw from the East Quabbin Land Trust about possible interest.

Asparagus Festival: It was decided to have a booth again on Saturday, May 21, 2022.

Annual Report: Dick wrote the 2021 report which Anne-Marie typed and sent to Rebecca Acerra. Anne-Marie will email this to Commission members.

Print of King Philip's War: A print to fit a 11 x 17 frame can be purchased to hang in the Office. Louise will determine the type of paper.

Photos of Houses: It was suggested to ask the Assessors Office for digital photos of the Historic Register homes.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:45 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary