

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

OLD BUSINESS

Website: Scholarship information will be posted on the website. In addition, the Asparagus Festival date will be posted as well as the location of the HC table and the historical items on display.

Climate Control Room: Members will meet there on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of February 28, 2022. A motion was made and approved to pay \$153 to Anevry for the hard drive from the England Fund. Anevry configured and upgraded the computer with the new Windows 11 for \$175 in labor. A motion was made and approved to pay Ionos (yearly website domain cost) \$112.18 from the England Fund. Motions were made and approved to reimburse Dick Rossman \$51.14 for the safe, \$58 for stamps for Scenic Roads mailing, and \$4.45 for book mailing, all from the Town account.

H.S. Scholarship: Louise will send in a press release to the local newspapers. A UMass unofficial transcript was submitted by Ms. Maskell for 2019-2020 to complete the requirement of receiving the scholarship award. The Commission voted to submit payment of \$2000 to her.

Old Indian Cemetery: Metal detector sign has been made and will be installed when weather improves.

Methodist Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse has made the change voted upon and has sent Rebekah Cornell most of the information. Jesse still has to contact Jeff Taylor, Building Inspector, to ascertain how many demolition delay permits have been granted. Jesse will let members know when there is another Planning Board meeting.

Master Plan Implementation: Nothing to report.

Library Programs: The "Rendezvous with Rachel Revere" presentation will be held Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 4 pm in the Great Hall.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Jesse will write a letter to Elise Kowal from the Common Committee about the maintenance of the signs and monuments.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Dick will call Ben Haley for update.

Town Hall Maintenance: Two contractors were contacted with no positive result. Three more contractors' names were mentioned for possible interest.

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

Facebook page: Lucy Stone Day (March 8) will be added, and the scholarship information was posted.

Jacob Knight Collection: Space is too limited at the library to exhibit the collection. Heather will reach out to the Palmer Public Library as it has a large space with good lighting. A press release and an opening reception to be held prior were suggested.

Wickaboag Valley Road: The article to add Wickaboag Valley Road as a Scenic Road was given in to be placed on the town Meeting warrant in June. Members brought in the addressed envelopes at the meeting.

Metal Detector Signs: Jesse will email Elise Kowal about the 2 signs for the Common and Bandstand that the Historical Commission is purchasing, with the Common Committee deciding their location. Louise will order the signs and be reimbursed later. Jim Daley, Highway Department, will be asked to set them up.

5 Foster Hill Road: The Commission's motion to contribute \$5000 from the England Fund to the East Quabbin Land Trust for their intended purchase of this property was made and approved. There was discussion as to other funding options and assisting with a fund-raising committee.

Asparagus Festival: Members were asked to make a list of what to bring to the venue.

Print of King Philip's War: One print was chosen. Louise will follow up on paper choice, purchase, etc.

Photos of Houses: The Assessors' Office has all the house photos to update the Center Historic Register binders.

NEW BUSINESS

Sacajawea coin: Mert Kenniston made a gift to the Historical Commission of a 2011 certified dollar coin representing the Sacajawea Wampanoag Treaty of 1621. A suggestion was made to combine the mounted coin with the framed print of King Philip's War. Mert will be asked to present the coin at the next meeting.

New member: Ryan Gough expressed his interest in becoming a new member of the Historical Commission which was met with approval. Welcome, Ryan! Dick will write the Board of Selectmen a letter recommending that they appoint him to the Historical Commission at their next meeting.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:15 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, April 4th, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary