

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, June 6, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Jesse Morrison, Heather Walker, Louise Garwood, Anne-Marie Nolan, Ryan Gough, Mike Sroka and guest Mert Kenniston with Dick Rossman presiding.

### **NEW BUSINESS Part One**

The Commission welcomed Mert Kenniston, a lifelong numismatist, who gave a wonderfully detailed presentation on the history of the U.S. Mint Commemorative Dollars program, the Wampanoag Treaty Commemorative Golden Dollar in particular. Mert graciously presented the Historical Commission with the rare Sacagawea coin as a gift and explained the features which make it unique and valuable. The 2011 coin is sealed and preserved in a boxed frame. A photograph was taken and Mert left information with the members. The Commission was very appreciative of this honor. Mert agreed to give a future presentation at the library on colonial coinage.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Website: Mike will add the Sheryl Faye library program on Ruth Bader Ginsburg and the link to the EQLT website for the Pocket Park.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of May 31, 2022. A motion was made and approved to move the Sheryl Faye library program expense of \$187.50 from the Town Account to the England Fund. A motion was made and approved to have Dick Rossman buy stamps not to exceed \$67.50 from the Town account. A motion was made and approved to pay Industrial Designworks \$1047 for the Center Historic sign from the England Fund.

H.S. Scholarship: The accountant is waiting for Katelyn Maskell to submit the W-9 form.

Old Indian Cemetery: No word from the Fannins. Their assistant Leo was at the cemetery a couple of weeks ago.

Methodist Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse will get more insight regarding the signatures needed for a special town meeting.

Library Programs: The "Rendezvous with Rachel Revere" presentation was held Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 4 pm in the Great Hall. 15-20 people attended this program. The Ruth Bader Ginsburg program is slated in the Great Hall on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4pm. As previously stated, Mert Kenniston is happy to give a future presentation on colonial coinage. Heather will coordinate with Mert and the library. There was discussion as to the afternoon versus evening time slot with no decision.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Dick made some corrections which Louise will incorporate in the document. Louise and Anne-Marie will get together to clean 2 markers on Foster Hill.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: Dick is of the opinion that the eligibility can be done by the Commission rather than paying an outside agency.

Town Hall Maintenance: The Commission was in agreement that the side door purchased does not meet the preservation restriction guidelines; a letter stating this will be sent to BOS. It was also decided to send MHC a photograph of the metal door and one of the existing door for comparison to get their input.

Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc: Work will continue.

Facebook page: Louise will update after the Pocket Park workday on Saturday, June 11.

Jacob Knight Collection: In process. A thank you note was sent to the Alleys.

Wickaboag Valley Road: Dick and Jesse will ask to meet with the BOS on June 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss the reasons for having the road added to the Scenic Road list.

Metal Detector Signs: Dick and Heather will discuss sign placement after the Saturday workday on Foster Hill.

5 Foster Hill Road: Louise did a wonderful job on the poster. Some donations were made and sent to EQLT.

Asparagus Festival: Thank you to everyone who helped with setting up and manning the booth. Anne-Marie received and responded to 3 inquiries regarding houses and land use.

Center Historic District Sign: Designworks made and installed the replacement sign.

Historic Buildings Sign: Jesse did not hear back from the teacher.

## **NEW BUSINESS Part Two**

Elm tree by monuments: Jim Daley has been appointed Tree Warden and informed the Commission that the elm tree is in bad shape (ants). National Grid could be contacted. Louise will write a letter addressed to Jim Daley agreeing that the tree removal is necessary.

Roger Persons House 10 Church Street: Roger Persons' granddaughter requested a picture of the house where her father John grew up (as a birthday surprise). Bev Kenniston had a picture which was subsequently copied. In addition, Dick had a wooden square given to him by Roger Persons with the initials stamped JQAN (John Quincy Adams Nutting) which Dick in turn is giving to them.

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of West Brookfield Incorporation (1848-2023): It was suggested to research the history and possibly ask Bill Jenkins to give a talk (Library program).

Meeting adjourned ca. 9:00 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary