

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Website: No changes. Minutes and Little Marshy Meadow information/photographs need to be posted.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of October 31, 2022. Binders and box folders will be purchased in the future from town account.

H.S. Scholarship: A letter will be sent to Katelyn Maskell.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins plan to return on Friday, November 11.

Methodist Cemetery: Nothing to report.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Selectmen's meeting went ok according to Jesse. The bylaw does not need to go to the Planning Board, as it would be a general bylaw. The Board brought up changing the age of the buildings from 100 years old to 150 years old. It will be put on June 2023 Town meeting warrant. A suggestion was made to look at other similar towns' bylaw and implementation.

Library Programs: Heather has not heard from Mert Kenniston. Anne-Marie will make an attempt to contact him.

Local Historical Memorials and Sites: Selectmen received a copy of the document along with an explanatory letter. The Commission has copies to be filed.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historical Register: No update.

Town Hall Maintenance: Selectmen were in favor of painting. Town Counsel will prepare RFP's. The front door was deemed to be too expensive to replace, hence the need to get estimates on repair and/or replacement (refer to Architural Insights evaluation). More to follow.

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

Facebook page: 335 followers; it was suggested to add the Little Marshy Meadow Brick fundraiser and Demolition Delay bylaw information.

Jacob Knight Collection: No response from Palmer Library; Heather has a lead on the Southbridge Library and an Art Center in Southbridge.

Wickaboag Valley Road: Selectmen were receptive to putting the road on the June 2023 Town meeting warrant to be voted on as a Scenic Road.

Metal Detector Signs: It was suggested to purchase 2 more signs, one for Maple Street and one for the center of the Common. Jesse will contact Elise Kowal about the fountain blinking light and the trash cans.

Little Marshy Meadow: The next workday is Saturday, November 19<sup>t.h</sup>.

Elm Tree: Louise will contact Jim Daley, Tree Warden, about a replacement tree.

Center Historic District sign: It was decided to drop the matter.

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of West Brookfield Incorporation (1848-2023): A letter will be sent to the Selectmen making them aware of the anniversary and possible events (banner at the Asparagus Festival, images of the Common over time). Heather mentioned asking Bill Jenkins about giving a talk at the library.

Driveway cut bylaw: Rebecca will provide HC with a checklist Warren uses.

Pynchon Mill: Louise sent the information to Cynthia Henshaw.

Grant for Town Hall: It was decided to wait another year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Boston Post Cane: Anne-Marie will contact Town Clerk for an updated list of the town's oldest residents.

White Christmas Library Raffle: The Commission will donate a Frank Bly print of the Common. Louise will bring it to Worcester Art & Frame for matting and a plastic sleeve.

Photo: Dick brought in a photo from Peter Dryer. No one knew the people pictured.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:15 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, December 5, 2022 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary