

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Heather Walker, Anne-Marie Nolan, Jesse Morrison, and Ryan Gough with Louise Garwood presiding. Also attending were interested guests Rachel Gulen and Danny Wodyga.

Louise mentioned starting the year together missing Dick Rossman but knowing he is happily relaxing after his time on the Commission.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Website: Minutes are up to date. Website home page will need to be updated with current events, also the About Us section should reflect the change in Officers and add Ryan Gough as a member. The town website does not have Historical Commission monthly meeting listed.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of December 31, 2022.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie made changes to the wording of the scholarship application. The award letter also includes deadline dates for submission of the 1st semester transcript, 2nd semester proof of enrollment, and W-9 form and added that failure to do so would cause the scholarship to be forfeited.

Old Indian Cemetery: The Fannins will come in the spring to work on a condition assessment of stones which need repair.

Methodist Cemetery: Minxie Fannin will work on National Register of Historic Places for nomination over the winter.

Demolition Delay Bylaw: Jesse gave the members copies of another town's bylaw to review and discuss as the main topic at the February meeting. Correction of the Nov. 1, 2022 BOS meeting minutes was done and will be sent to BOS at some point.

Library Programs: Heather will contact Holly Takorian about programs the library may be considering this year.

Rock House Nomination to the National Historic Register: Louise will work on it this year.

Town Hall Maintenance: No update on the RFP. Louise will follow up with Rebecca Acerra. Discussion focused on the doors.

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

Facebook page: The Little Marshy Meadow Brick Fundraiser is now listed.

Jacob Knight Collection: No update.

Wickaboag Valley Road: In process.

Metal Detector Signs: Louise brought the 2 signs. Jim Daley will put them up.

Little Marshy Meadow: Further plantings will happen in the spring. Next meeting Feb. 9, 2023 at Library , 6:30.

Elm Tree: Historical Commission sources and pays for replacement tree, timeline to be determined.

175th Anniversary of West Brookfield Incorporation (1848-2023): Ideas: designing a banner for the Asparagus Festival Commission table, artifacts, program by Bill Jenkins with photographs, etc. More to follow.

Driveway cut bylaw: West Brookfield has a curb cut bylaw since 1989. Louise will contact Rebekah Cornell for advice in relation to scenic roads.

Grant for Town Hall: Heather will take a virtual introductory grant writing class and give a report to the HC.

Boston Post Cane: The Commission decided to pass on to the next name on the list from the Town Clerk. Anne-Marie will contact her to see if she is agreeable and if so will then proceed to setting up an interview and so forth. Ryan will assist with this project.

White Christmas Library Raffle: Motion for reimbursement for the Frank Bly print will be made in February.

Historical Commission Goals: Louise went over the 2022 continuing goals and the 2023 new goals.

NEW BUSINESS

Dick Rossman: Dick sent the annual letter to the England Fund trustees enumerating the projects the Commission completed with England Fund money. A copy of this letter and Dick's resignation letter to the Selectmen will be filed. A farewell note from Dick to the Commission members was read.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:30 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary