

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, February 6, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Heather Walker, Jesse Morrison, Ryan Gough, and Mike Sroka with Louise Garwood presiding. Also attending was Rachel Gulen who expressed an interest in joining the Commission.

All Commission members expressed deep sorrow at the passing of Dick Rossman suddenly last week.

Louise sent a card of condolence for the Commission.

We tried a new format for the meeting. We went through the items from last month's Minutes that had action taken and any relevant discussion, putting aside anything in which no action was taken since the last meeting. We then took up most of the meeting time to review and brainstorm how to proceed with proposing Demolition Delay Bylaw to BOS and Town Meeting.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Website: Minutes are up to date. Scholarship application was posted and Officers list (About Us) was updated. Mike will add upcoming events: Asparagus festival dates, Little Marshy Meadow activities and Brick fundraiser. Town website officer list has been updated.

Treasurer's Report: Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of January 8, 2023.

H.S. Scholarship: Anne-Marie made changes to the wording of the scholarship application. Newspapers and schools have all been notified. Should the recipient be from Quaboag Regional High School, the Award Ceremony will be held on May 31, 2023 with Louise Garwood presenting the scholarship.

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. Review of three Mass. Towns presentations and sample DD Bylaws -Taking a new tack considering precedent studies ( Newburyport, Concord, ) Develop ByLaw as well as Presentation, Jesse will consolidate the various town studies that he felt would best describe what we want to communicate. Rachel offered to start putting the slides together.

Library Programs: Library is interested in HC funding "Eleanor Roosevelt" by Sheryl Faye for \$391.70 which we are in agreement but want to find out the times and ages the program is slated for. Discussion centered on whether Bill Jenkins would be interested in doing a program on history or on Jacob Knight, with an offer to pay him. Most of us felt it was money better spent and to put our effort towards this, maybe funding both.

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

Town Hall Maintenance: No reply from Town Office to Louise email on the RFP. Louise will follow up with Rebecca Acerra.

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

Facebook page: The 2022 scholarship letter and application were posted.

Jacob Knight Collection: No update.

Scenic Roads Wickaboag Valley Road: Scenic Road designation. Louise will send letter to BOS/Town Office to see if we are on Town Meeting agenda for designation.

Metal Detector Signs: Louise will contact Jim Daley.

Little Marshy Meadow: Next meeting Feb. 9, 2023 at Library, 6:30pm. Brick for Dick Rossman has been ordered in recognition of 24 years of HC service. EQLT ordered 8 x 8" – HC will also order 8 x 8" – next meeting we will have ready quotes of native people from Northeast to share, to add to the brick. Rachel offered to see if the Brookfield Garden Club would like to donate a brick.

175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Heather alerted Town Office to see if they have any plans to recognize the anniversary. We discussed designing a poster and fridge magnets (swag) for Asparagus Festival table. ( Town Acct.) LG will do design mock-ups for next meeting. See Asparagus Festival notes.

Elm Tree: Historical Commission sources and pays for replacement tree, donated in memory of Dick Rossman. Louise can get at cost through her nursery discounts.

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: Anne-Marie will update members at the next meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Town Historian: Louise will look into the designation (state program?) as we all agreed this is an opportunity to offer Bill Jenkins recognition for his dedication to sharing our town history through his FB page and all that he does regarding same.

Asparagus Festival: The HC submitted an application and will vote to approve the fee once a reply is received.

Meeting adjourned ca. 8:02 P.M.

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

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary