

The West Brookfield Historical Commission met on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. in the Historical Commission office. Attending were Heather Walker, Jesse Morrison, Anne-Marie Nolan, Mike Sroka, and Rachel Gulen, with Louise Garwood presiding.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**Website:** Mike submitted the 2023 Ionos bill. He will post the Town Meeting date (June 13, 2023) due to the Scenic Roads being on the warrant; also, he will remove the scholarship announcement. **(MS)**

**Treasurer's Report:** Heather read a financial statement reflecting account balances as of April 30, 2023.

**H.S. Scholarship:** There were no applications, unfortunately. **(AN)**

**Old Indian Cemetery:** Louise will contact the Fannins again to put HC on their schedule this year for the condition assessment of the stones needing repair and for a tutorial on cleaning gravestones. **(LG)**

**Methodist Cemetery:** No update. Louise will contact the Fannins again. **(LG)**

**Demolition Delay Bylaw:** Jesse and Heather will work together on the power point presentation detailing the bylaw process; also the proper procedure for the public hearing and the Special Town Meeting in the fall 2023. **(HW, JM, LG)**

**Library Programs:** A program on Eleanor Roosevelt is slated to be presented this Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 4 pm at the library. A motion to pay for half of the program, \$195.60 from the Town account, was made and approved. **(LG, HW)**

**Rock House Nomination to the National Historic Register:** No update. **(LG)**

**Town Hall Maintenance:** Louise did not receive any reply from Rebecca Acerra. Rebecca is now on medical leave. She will contact the BOS office again. **(LG)**

**Preservation of HC office documents, photos, etc.:** Work is ongoing. **(HW, AN)**

**Facebook page:** Information on the Scenic Roads was posted. Louise has a calendar of dates to add interesting information. **(LG)**

**Jacob Knight Collection:** The collection will be shown at the Mary Wells Center in Southbridge the month of April 2024. Heather is planning to add photos of Jacob Knight at work in his studio with anecdotes and to have refreshments available from the Historical Commission on opening day. **(HW)**

**Scenic Roads:** Louise will write up a brief narrative for the Town Meeting explaining what it is and isn't. She sent Scenic Road brochures to the Planning Board, the Selectmen and Rebecca Acerra. **(LG)**

**Little Marshy Meadow:** The next workday is Saturday, May 6, 2023 at 8:30 am. **(members)**

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** The 200 magnets came in at a cost of \$104.79, approved at last month's meeting payable to Louise Garwood from the town account. Louise decided not to proceed with a poster. Heather will work with Bill Jankins over the summer on the fall presentation (Center Historic District). Heather mentioned having Jeff Robbins give a talk on industry at some future time. **(LG) (HW)**

**Tree on the Common:** Louise contacted Jim Daley on 4/30/23. The American sycamore tree was chosen as it was Dick Rossman's favorite tree. The Commission will purchase it in Dick's honor. **(LG)**

**Driveway cut bylaw:** Ongoing. Louise will contact Rebekah Cornell. **(LG)**

**Grant for Town Hall:** Heather plans to take a virtual introductory grant writing class in the fall. **(HW)**

**Boston Post Cane:** **(AN, RG)** Camille Koss, 99 years of age, will receive the Boston Post Cane pin and certificate on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 10 am at Cedarbrook Village in Ware. Expenses will be voted on at June meeting. **(AN)**

**Town Historian:** Louise (HC) will coordinate with Amy Dugas (QHS). Both will present a certificate and a gift card in the fall at the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary presentation. **(LG)**

**Asparagus Festival:** Date is May 20, 2023. Commission members will meet on Friday, May 19 at 4:15/4:30 pm at the office to help bring down the table, sign, tent, chairs, brochures, binders (newspaper clippings, obituaries, Wickaboag Valley Road), LMM donation crock, Lucy stones, notebook, etc. **(available members)**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**HC Brochure:** The brochure was edited and will be duplicated on the copier. **(LG, HW)**

**LMM Brick:** Louise will purchase the brick with a Native American quote chosen by the group. **(LG)**  
Meeting adjourned ca. 8:18 P.M.

The next **monthly** meeting will be held on **Monday, June 5, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.** in the Historical Commission Office.

Respectfully submitted, Anne-Marie Nolan, Secretary