

May 5, 2025

West Brookfield Historical Commission Minutes

Attendees: Louise Garwood, Anne-Marie Nolan, Jesse Morrison, and Dan Hamilton

Agenda

Call to order

Minutes April review - vote

Treasurer's Report

Pending Business:

Jacob Knight Planning- graphic review, postal lists and stamp brigade

Re-assessment Old Indian Cemetery – 2 possible conservers to submit proposals

Scholarship Update

Website and Digital: - Dan scanning updates, inquiries

Asparagus Festival

Town Hall updates

New Business

Meeting Opened: Louise called the meeting to order on May 5, 2025, at 7:01pm.

Call to order: Attending: Louise Garwood, Jesse Morrison, Anne-Marie Nolan, and Dan Hamilton.

April Minutes Approval: Motion was raised by Jesse, seconded by Dan and motion carried with no discussion.

Treasurer's Report: Louise read Heather's report with submitted payments and approved expenditures. Motion to approve report was raised by Anne-Marie, seconded by Jesse. Motion carried with no discussion. Anne-Marie will bring a list of office supplies' vendors from Beth Gobeille at next meeting.

Pending Business:

Storage: No progress. Dan brought in old books from Clerk's office. Rules for Town Officers might be worth keeping.

Jacob Knight Planning: Louise brought her printer copy of the poster which will actually be 11x17. Suggestion was to add "Presented by West Brookfield Historical Commission" at the bottom in black. Louise spoke with Jacob Knight's nephew, Kirk Jaskoviak, who is very interested in sharing his JK collection and contacts (Tony King, Leicester Historical Society). Dan will contact Kirk Jaskoviak. Ruth Lyon's interview is rescheduled for this month. No news on the postal list. Labels will come from town account. There were other questions that Heather can answer at next meeting (Stephen DiRado speaker, different focus each weekend...). Brainstorming ensued which Louise will forward to Heather.

Re-Assessment: Two proposals for Old Indian Cemetery gravestone repairs were received. Historic Gravestone Services' quote was \$32,600 for 39 stones; Ludlow Memorial Company (LMC) quoted \$20,370 for 42 stones; compared to Fannins's quote of \$28,470 for 39 stones. Louise will talk further with TaMara from HGS. Jesse will reach out to LMC as to whether quote included documentation. Decision will be made once both companies demonstrate comparable services.

Scholarship: There were no applications from a West Brookfield resident.

Web/Digital Scanning Update: Dan reported that he is up to letter T in the file cabinet and has scanned 1.5 Jenkins' boxes. Website: he put on the Asparagus Festival event and took off the scholarship.

Asparagus Festival: Date 5/17/2025, 10am – 3pm. Reminder: Members will meet at the Town Hall at 8:30am to gather tent, table(s), brochures, Inquiry book, Jacob Knight flyer, easel with map, street inventories, list of HC accomplishments, History of WB book by Fiske, etc. to be brought to Common. Manning the table: Dan and Louise - all day, Jesse – morning; Anne-Marie – morning; Heather – part of the day.

Town Hall: No updates.

New Business:

Dan sold a History of West Brookfield book for \$40 which will be turned in to the Treasurer's Office. Anne-Marie read an email from Carol Prichard announcing the recent death of her husband, Steve Prichard, a descendant of one of the first settlers of Quaboag Plantation, William Prichard. Louise will send a condolence card to her from the Commission. Suggestion: write an article about this for the Spencer New Leader.

Motion to adjourn the meeting: Motion was raised by Louise, seconded by Jesse, and carried with no discussion. The meeting ended at 8:30pm. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2025, at 7pm.