

Lancaster Historical Commission
Meeting Minutes for December 27, 2023
Prescott Building 2nd floor



Meeting called to order: 7pm

Present: Amy Brown, Judy Elwell, Marcia Jakubowicz, Karen Silverthorn

Absent: John (Sandy) Foster, Mark Schryver

Visitor: Jason Allison, Ann Fuller, John Murphy

Minutes from December 6: Amy moved to accept minutes from December 6. Marcia seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Date for next meeting: January 24 at 7pm

Co-Chair report – Marcia Jakubowicz reported on her investigation of the Boston Post Cane. Canes are actively used in many communities, being kept at Historical Societies, senior centers and town halls. Some have been lost, some found in attics and basements. The awarding of the cane to oldest citizens (many over 100 years old) is often done at large parties. We have 3 names of people who turn 100 in 2024 and Marcia will investigate further after the new year to see who is oldest. Amy suggested we should recognize the recipient at town meeting and perhaps other town events as awardee is more likely to take care of award if it is public knowledge. A Boston Post Cane pin will be given to awardee and the cane itself will be kept at the Historical Commission.

Co-Chair report – Karen Silverthorn reported that we are in a holding pattern, getting to know each other and what our strengths are. We need to work together and get ideas for projects. We are still waiting to confirm what items stay and what goes to the Historical Society, because there remains a bit of confusion out there. Also reported that she, Marcia, and Judy visited the different town department offices on December 21 to introduce the LHC and give out candy canes and a flyer with historical info. Effort was very well received. We will try to provide similar flyers in the future.

Jason, who is liaison to the Select Board, told us that everything in our office belongs to the Commission and all that is in the Exhibit Room belongs to the Historical Society and is scheduled to be moved soon. The town is waiting for proof of ownership from the Lancaster Historical Society.

Vice Chair report – Amy has been reading up on historical events to find fun facts for our flyers. Also noted that CPA funds deadline is the end of January 2024. Further discussion under New Business.

Old Business

Documentation of LHC Officers' Election on Oct. 25: The slate of officers voted in on October 25 was Marcia Jakubowicz and Karen Silverthorn as Co-Chairs, Amy Brown as Vice Chair, and Judy Elwell as Secretary. Amy moved to approve the slate of officers, Marcia seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Boston Post Cane: refer to Marcia's co-chair report.

LHC email distribution list: Jason will check to be sure addresses in the list are correct because no one on the LHC has received any emails.

LHC Webpage updates: The LHC page on Lancaster's website has been updated with correct LHC information by the Town Clerk.

Keys to LHC office in Prescott Building: 2 keys were given by Kate Hodges, Town Administrator. One to Marcia and one to Amy.

Holiday visit to town offices: refer to Karen's co-chair report. Luncheon has been re-scheduled for Jan 4. LHC members to meet at Meadowbrook at noon. All members pay their own way.

Historical artifact displays in Prescott Building: put off discussion for next month.

New Business

Nomination of Associate Members: Ann Fuller and John Murphy were nominated to be appointed as Associate Members of LHC. Karen will send request to Select Board, Kate Hodges, Kathi Rocco, and Town Clerk.

CPA new funding round: we want to continue the work on Middle Cemetery. Amy will talk with Joe Mule' when he is back from vacation. Joe has been working on the CPA project and the Lancaster cemeteries.

Annual Budget: Budgeted amount is \$5000 (not certain about this). Marcia will ask Kate or Kathy for details of how we use the funds for items or reimbursement.

Annual Report: we need to report on what we have done in 2023 and our new beginnings.

No committee member reports or comments.

Action items: Judy to find out who owns the postcard collection, Marcia to investigate further on Boston Post cane, Amy to continue to find info for flyers, Karen to begin looking into preparation of the Annual Report and will investigate new projects.

Move to adjourn made by Judy, seconded by Amy, unanimously approved at 8:08pm.

Submitted

Judy Elwell, Secretary

Marcia Jakubowicz, Co-Chair

Karen Silverthorn, Co-Chair

Amy Brown, Vice-Chair