

LEVERETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

April 10, 2017 @ 7:15PM-meeting began Town Hall

MINUTES:

In attendance: Edith Field, Eva Gibavic, Betsy Douglas, Susan Lynton, Susan Mareneck, Sara Robinson (Unable to attend: Anne Schuyler; Ann Tweedy)

Minutes from 3/6/17 approved unanimously.

1. **Update - Digital Archives Project & Cemeteries** (SL & EF)
 - Cemetery research UMASS 2 grad. students (Nolan Cool, Austin Clark) Susan Lynton is entering cemetery data. She thinks it would be better to have two people work together one read/ other enter. If we could find funds for summer interns from UMASS, they would be able to complete the entries. Nolan & Austin have visited most of the cemeteries (6) that they are researching. They are looking for information on the Patrick Cemetery. They will be paid ½ of the contract this week. They plan to finish by May 10, 2017. Our goal is to qualify to apply for funding to create a masterplan for conservation of Leverett's 12 historic cemeteries. Tamara Conde (CPA funded conservation work) looked at broken stones in North Cemetery (completed in 2013); no decision on what to do yet. She is finished with Moore's Corner Cemetery and starting on Jackson Hill.
 - Cemetery Preservation Campaign (EDDM) Susan Lynton can institute Pay Pal on LHS website. We need to find out banking info from Julie Shively and contact Ruth West re admin privileges on website. Edie's grandson may be able to help. Susan M. will contact Ruth West if needed. Susan will redo card design and save in a format that can also be sent on email.

2. **History related/ Cultural Event possibilities –** (SR, EF, SM)
 - Update – “Education in Leverett from Village Schools to Consolidation – Who Are Our Neighbors”.
 - * LOI approved; meeting with LES re incorporation of students in Oral History interviews. A draft Project Grant proposal was submitted today.

3. **Strategic Planning for Historical Assets Survey** (SL, AS, BD, EF)
 - Town-wide Strategic Planning initiative to Select Board 3/7/17 – We need to develop a process: When to start? Historical Assets survey first. SM to contact Stacia Caplanson at Preservation MA regarding funding for such an effort. Connect Stacia to Susan Lynton.
 - Eva Gibavic re Brushy Mtn. cellar holes and native landscapes. Eva gave some background on her work with local tribes – mapping ceremonial landscapes. Mary Pike and Adzuba Nye are two early Leverett settlers who were native people. She is working on MOU's to try to protect sites in Leverett. There are different kinds of structures: memorials (not graves), astrological alignments and unknown uses. On Brushy Mtn. there are early settler's cellar holes which in the past Cowles has been careful not to

disturb. Now Eva is concerned about activities by Eversource to put in permanent roads to service the powerlines that may impact the historic archaeological sites. There are questions about whether Eversource has the right-of-way? Do they have to have permission from the Leverett Conservation Commission? Can MA Historical Commission have sites on file? Can they hold this information confidentially? We believe the sites should be included in the Historical Assets Survey. Betsy Douglas will contact Michael Steinitz at MHC, Eva will draft a letter to Eversource, Susan will send on LHC letterhead if MHC thinks it is the best course to pursue.

4. LHS (EF)

- *CPA proposal to renovate the Family Museum (Field Library)* It will not be brought to Town Meeting by CPC this year.

5. NR Historic Districts

- *Update on application for three HD signs* Has been approved by CPC to be voted at Town Meeting. (BD)

6. Town Garage artifacts (EF, SM)

- *Road signs, treadle sharpening wheels, scythe blades/ snath handles; to be offered at Town Meeting (silent auction?)* Not to Town Meeting this year – no time to advertise. Hopefully the scythes/snathes will go to Moore's Corner School House Museum.

5. New Business – Next meeting date – (*2nd Monday of May is 5/8*) (All)

Betsy Douglas moved to adjourn; Edie Field seconded.

8:30pm

SM

