

# LEVERETT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 8, 2017 @ 7PM – Meeting began 7:10pm Town Hall

## MINUTES:

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

*Minutes from 4/10/17 approved. Motion to approve by SLynton; second BDouglas. Passed unanimously.*

### 1. **Update - Digital Archives Project & Cemeteries**

(SL & EF)

- Cemetery research UMASS 2 grad. students (Nolan Cool, Austin Clark) Nolan and Austin plan to finish by May 12. They have a bit more to do on Plainview and North Cemeteries, and then will submit hard copies of six Form E (one for each cemetery – Gardner, Patrick, North Plainview, Mt. Toby and Wiley). They will give us all the electronic data and research on a flash drive and submit to Massachusetts Historical Commission to be listed in MACRIS if approved and designated a National Register Historic **Place**. They will be paid the remainder of their contracted fee by the Leverett Historical Society and Cemetery Association once the work is completed.

Eddie commented that they have found new data on local families buried in those six cemeteries using the Corbin collection, web and resources from the Leverett Town Vault. We wonder if in-depth research on the burial grounds within the NRHD would also be valuable knowledge to have on file. It would be helpful to have additional graduate student assistance input the data on the cemeteries we have, update older inventories and gather additional information. (For instance, Jackson Hill inventory does not have rows assigned to markers.)

- Cemetery Preservation Campaign (EDDM)

(SM) Susan M.

showed revisions to the Cemetery Preservation Campaign EDDM card. All agreed to take out information about contemporary burials, which might confuse the recipient of the current plea to support the Historic Cemeteries fund. SM will check with Julie Shively re LHS awareness before card sent out. The cost of printing and mailing will be charged to the LHC budget line. A Paypal account will be set up for the LHS website.

### 2. **History related/ Cultural Event possibilities –**

(SR, EF, SM)

- Update – “Education in Leverett from Village Schools to Consolidation – Who Are Our Neighbors”.

\* Revised application submitted May 1, 2017. LHC members and other Leverett natives are hopeful that the proposal will be approved. MAHumanities will post decisions on 6/21. If approved, the “Pre-interview inquiries” will be sent to the list of residents (and former residents) who attended village one-room schools pre-1950 and some who also attended the consolidated school after it was built. Interested parties hope that the oral histories with these particular elders can be collected with or without the MAHumanities grant. We are planning to contact the Leverett Community Preservation Committee chair to inquire whether “historic preservation” pertains to

cultural history as well as the built environment. SM to attend a UMASS Oral History Lab “crash course” in collecting oral histories @ Clark University, Worcester in May. Edie reports that Judy Ricker is looking for a few more people to be interviewed.

### 3. Strategic Planning for Historical Assets Survey (SL, AS, BD, EF, EG)

- Update - Town-wide Strategic Planning initiative to Select Board 3/7/17. The Select Board is interested in LHC plan to do a survey in the fall of residents from all the historic districts and other areas in town to find out what historic assets have meaning for them. Through door-to-door in-person interviews, online and paper survey methods, we hope to identify local grassroots priorities for preservation/conservation efforts. Over the summer we identify the questions to be included in the survey. (It may be possible to combine oral histories for *Education in Leverett*, from Leverett natives with a short interview about historical priorities.) The idea is to develop a consensus for a plan to use CPA historic preservation funding in a logical, long-term strategy.

- ~~Contact MHC/Eversource re preserving Brushy Mtn. cellar holes and native landscapes~~ Tabled.

### 4. LHS (EF)

- Update - CPA proposal to renovate the Family Museum (Field Library) The Community Preservation Commission did not vote to send the application for conservation of the former Field Library, now Leverett Family Museum, to town meeting for a vote. They sent explanations to the Select Board and the LHS Pres. Edie Field. She will share a copy of their questions with anyone who is interested.

The LFM has had visitors and donations of photos. Right now curator Edie Field is working on “a puzzle”, “Who is “Aunt Cecelia’s daughter”?”

### 5. NR Historic Districts (BD)

- Update on application for three HD signs Betsy emailed Bill Rathbun that his bid was accepted to create the new HD signs. (The two unsuccessful bidders were also notified.) The deadline for completion is the end of the summer. Bill will notify Dave Finn directly, who already has been given permission to contact Cowles to have them deliver the 12’ posts when the signs are complete. The Leverett DPW will install.

### 6. Town Garage artifacts (EF, SM)

- Update - Road signs, treadle sharpening wheels, scythe blades/ snath handles (Harvest Festival?) No mention at town meeting.

### 7.. New Business – (All)

Susan L. reports that Carole is hoping to be more available next year. Motion to adjourn by Susan Lynton, send by Sara Robinson, passed unanimously. Adjourned 8:30pm.

Next meeting date – (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of June is 6/12)

SM

