Commission Membership Process (Draft) –

Leverett Historical Commission

Mission Statement: *(Anne Schuyler draft as adapted by LHC 4/12/21; SM suggestion 5/10/21- )*

The Leverett Historical Commission (LHC) was created by act of Town Meeting in 1973 under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Part I, Title VII, Chapter 40, section 8D, with a mandate to identify, preserve, protect, and develop historical assets. (*This language is directly from the statute)*

Historical assets are defined as encompassing the entire historic landscape, and may include artefacts or sites relating to geological, archaeological, paleontological, architectural and traditional cultural heritage of all human inhabitants. (*This language is still draft – but suggest giving the applicant the full draft document as well as the other supporting documents from Susan M’s 5/24 email )*

The LHC mandate:

1. What do you see as the role that Leverett's historical assets could or should play in the economic future of the town?
2. Is there a model of historic tourism you think should be considered for Leverett?
3. What are your thoughts relative to inclusion of acknowledgement of Indigenous history in the mission statement and as part LHC mandate?
4. Beyond our more visible community outreach endeavors and focus on preservation suggestions for historic buildings, the Commission is also charged with considering the historic significance of the archeology, landscape and culture of the town as well as vessels, documents, and artifacts. (State Historical Commission language) This full scope can be considered in CPC applications. Can you speak to the importance of these other aspects?

Specific Assets:

1. Do you have ideas on the future of Moore’s Corner Schoolhouse (owned by the Leverett Historical Society), the Field Family Museum (owned by the town), and the Slarrow Sawmill (owned by a private non-profit).

Experience:

1. Why do you want to join the LHC?
2. What prior experience do you have that would be most helpful to serving on the Leverett Historical Commission and help carry out its mandate?
3. What do you see as an appropriate relationship between the Leverett Historical Commission and the Leverett Historical Society?
4. How important is a diversity of perspectives on a town committee?
5. Do you have any experience writing grant proposals?
6. How would you handle differences of opinion and dissent both within the Commission and with the larger Leverett community?

Application process: Applicants are given these questions, back-up documentation, and sufficient time to answer in writing. After Commission members read the responses, we hold a meeting with the applicants for any additional Q&A and voting.

(From Susan L) Questions:

1.  What is your vision about how to preserve:

Moore's Corner and Leverett Family Museum?

The Sawmill?

2.  As part of a team, what role would you see yourself performing in preserving our historic assets?

3.  Since 40% of the households in Leverett would like federal and other grants to be gotten to support the preservation of our historic assets, do you have any experience writing grants?

(from Ann Tweedy)

Beyond our more visible community outreach endeavors and focus on preservation suggestions for historic buildings, the Commission is also charged with considering the historic significance of the archeology, landscape and culture of the town as well as vessels, documents, and artifacts. (State Historical Commission language)

This full scope can be considered in CPC applications. Can you speak to the importance of these other aspects?

How important is a diversity of perspectives on a town committee?

How would you handle differences of opinion and/or dissent on issues?

(From Eva)

Questions:

1) What do you see as the mission of the LHC?

2) The LHC is working on its mission statement. What are your thoughts relative to inclusion of acknowledgement of Indigenous history in the mission statement.

2) What do you see as the appropriate relationship between the LHC and the LHS?

3) What do you see as the role that Leverett's historical assets should play in the economic future of the town?

4) What is your take on historical tourism as a concept for Leverett?

5) What are your thoughts relative to the "McGovern proposal"?  How does your vision for Leverett compare with what is underlying that proposal?

6) What are your thoughts relative to the future use of the Field building that now houses the Leverett History Museum (formerly the Field Family Museum)?  [I believe the sign now says Leverett History Museum.]

(From Sara)

Why do you want to join LHC?

What do think you can contribute?