

## LYNDEBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

Friday, August 17, 2018, Center Hall

Present: Jessie Salisbury, Stephanie Roper, Bob Rogers, Julie Zebuhr and Selectman Mark Chamberlain.

7 p.m. Stephanie opened the meeting.

There was no treasurer's report or intent-to-cut forms.

Minutes of July 27 were approved on a motion by Bob, seconded by Stephanie.

### CLARK POTTERY SIGN

Confirmation of the sign order had been received from Olde Colony Artisans.

### COMMON

The committee is waiting for Wally (and good weather) to place the bricks for a walkway from the monuments to the flagpole. Stephanie delineated the placement of the walk with spray paint, but it has been removed by rain and will be redone. A donor has offered to purchase more bricks if needed. It is hoped to have the walk in place prior to Veterans' Day.

### TARBELL-KNIGHT HOUSE

Mark said the selectmen will be sending a letter following their discussion. The Historical Society would like a "definite maybe" that they could acquire the house in order to begin fundraising. The process could take several years.

### MONUMENT SIGNS

The Woodward sign has been ordered but not yet confirmed.

Signs for next year include the Soldiers' Monument in the South Yard and the West Cemetery on Forest Road (Route 31 north). Dr. Bartlett's gravesite is on the list. Jessie asked Mark if new (acting) Road Agent Mark Chase could be asked to look at the gravesite since work on Crooked S Road during the Mountain Road project left a high bank and a lot of stones making access difficult.

The following wording for the Soldier's Monument was presented but no action was taken:

“In 1879, the Grand Army of the Republic erected this monument to honor all veterans, but especially the fourteen citizens who died in the Civil War. The location, originally not in the cemetery, is a compromise between the Center and South Villages, given by Rufus Chamberlain when a committee of fifteen could not agree on a site. Beside the monument is a memorial to The Unknown Soldier, provided by the federal government, to commemorate all military personnel who died but could not be identified. No one is buried there.”

The Highway Department has been asked to add the Glass Factory sign on Forest Road to their mowing list.

#### STREET LIGHTS IN THE CENTER

The Study Committee plans an informational hearing on Monday, Aug. 27, to give any residents affected by the removal, addition, or changes in the lights a chance to express opinions. New lights will be brighter, but more down-cast.

If a new light is placed in front of the Town Hall, some members of the Historic District Commission favor the pole opposite the flagpole to provide some light for the church. The other possible site is the pole closer to the Town Hall parking lot to better illuminate that side of the hall.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

The Highway Department gave the Historical Society an old, very faded and rusted, “Caution School” sign, but it was not the “Children at Play” sign from Putnam Hill Road requested by the Society. That sign is forthcoming, but where the caution sign was is unclear. The Road Agent said it was in the village.

The big catalpa tree beside the Village Church parsonage was damaged in a storm on Aug. 11, but not cleaned up by the crew trimming out light wires. A branch of the tree, whose three trunks are widely separated, brushed the wires and caught fire resulting in emergency action, but the trunk was left untrimmed and unsightly and piles of branches were left beside the road. By tradition, the tree was planted by Walter Patterson around 1900 following a trip to the mid-west where the tree is native and is currently

owned by Johanne Fowler. Patterson is said to have been so taken with the tree he brought back three saplings, but only this one survived. The “Big Tree” people have called it the “second biggest catalpa in Hillsboro County” and it is the focal point of the village when it blooms in June. Tradition also says that Mr. Patterson gave the tree to the town after the ell of Armory Hall was moved there in 1910.

Mrs. Fowler said she would consult with a tree expert for the next move. Catalpa wood is said to be “excellent for wood carving,” and the broken parts were given to a local craftsman who cleaned up the mess.

#### NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was set for Friday, September 21, 7 p.m., at the Center Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m., discussion cut short by an approaching thunder storm.

Clerk