

LYNDEBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

Friday, February 28, 2020, J.A. Tarbell Library

Present: Stephanie Roper, Jessie Salisbury, Selectman Mark Chamberlain, and Tom and Ginny Chrisenton

Stephanie opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

SHOW AND TELL

Jessie had several new acquisitions by the Historical Society – a newspaper clipping from 1946 telling of John Dolliver's finding several graves in the woods, a gift from the Greenfield Historical Society; Charles Avery's life insurance certificate from 1885, a gift from the New Boston Society (he lived in North Lyndeborough); and the guest book from the Congregational Church 250th anniversary celebration in 1957.

WEST AND SOUTH CEMETERIES

Cemetery Trustee Ginny Chrisenton asked that the name 'West Cemetery' be changed to 'Forest Road Cemetery' after she found a reference to the latter name in the 1905 history (page 499 under Johnson's Corner Cemetery) which describes it as a private lot created for a smallpox victim named Thompson.

Jessie has contacted the sign maker to provide a new sign. Ginny said she had talked with the other trustees and they will pay for half of the new sign. She said the trustees will work with Road Agent Mark Chase to repair the Forest Road gate; put a wider, double gate for equipment at Johnson's Corner where the existing pedestrian gate will be a double picket gate, and change that fence to rails to make it easier for the grounds crew; and take a closer look at Dolliver (actually the West Cemetery, she said) because that fence is "shaky."

The graves at Perham Corner are laid out in a fan-shape, apparently to follow the drift of magnetic north.

Signs at closed cemeteries will be placed on the gates or gateposts. There will be no directional signs to Dolliver, North and Perham Corner cemeteries.

There will be two signs at South – one for the Soldiers' Monument and one at the preferred entrance.

The trustees and Chase will determine placement of the signs at Forest Road and Dr. Bartlett's grave. State rules prevent digging within 25 feet of a cemetery wall. She said they hope to engage a person with ground-penetrating radar to investigate several places. She suspects graves under Center Road.

The graves described in the news clipping are on the Chrisenton property and she was given a copy of the clipping for the cemetery files.

The minutes of Jan. 24 were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Stephanie. No treasurer's report or intent-to-cut forms.

DISPLAY CASES

A number of people viewed the new displays during the Primary Election. Comments were all positive. The display will stay through the general election this fall.

CENTER HALL

Jessie will meet Building Inspector Leo Trudeau at the hall when weather conditions permit to discuss the ante room steps and what is wanted. No one recalls a handrail so, unless codes require one, it will not be installed.

The small rooms at either side of the stage need to be cleaned out. Russ has suggested that the Commission determine what needs to be done and costs so it can be placed in next year's budget. Mark said if it's just a matter of cleaning and painting, perhaps it could be done this year. It has a tin ceiling which may require repair.

Members and others will meet at the hall on Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m., to begin. Leo will be invited.

The anteroom also needs to be cleared of "stuff" that has accumulated. If the backstage is cleaned out, anything the Commission or Historical Society wants to keep could be put back there.

Refinishing the floor is on the Citizens' Hall maintenance list.

The garden around the flagpole and by the building need to be weeded prior to Memorial Day. Someone needs to be found to provide continual, if only occasional, care.

TOWN HISTORY UPDATE

The committee will begin choosing pictures later this spring.

COMMON

No memorial bricks were installed last year, and no work was done on the walkway. The common will be readied for Memorial Day as usual.

OTHER BUSINESS

The annual Old House and Barn Expo will be held in Manchester on March 21-22.

Bill McAuley of the Frankestown Heritage Commission would like to partner with other commissions to address regional issues.

This year is the 285th anniversary of the granting of Salem-Canada. Stephanie will write a short blurb for the moderator to read at Town meeting. The Historical Society is planning a program for late spring.

The Monuments Committee will provide coffee and snacks at Town meeting.

The town will observe Vietnam Veterans Welcome Home on March 29 with ceremonies on the Common and by the Center Hall where the cannon will be fired and refreshments served.

Clayton's term ends this year and he has asked to not be reappointed. He will continue to receive copies of the minutes. Bob Howe has expressed interest and will be contacted.

A resident of the Center is needed for the Historic District Commission. There are two new residents in the area, and they will be contacted.

The next meeting was set for Friday, March 27, 7 p.m., at the library

Clerk

