

LYNDEBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

Friday, March 26, 2021, J.A. Tarbell Library

Present: Stephanie Roper, Jessie Salisbury, Bob Howe, Lou Rota, Selectman Mark Chamberlain (arrived 7:20)

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

SHOW AND TELL

No presentations

The minutes of Feb. 26, 2020, were accepted on a motion by Bob Howe, seconded by Stephanie. There was no treasurer's report or intent-to-cut forms.

PROPOSED ROOF AT CITIZEN'S HALL

Mark said the project has been postponed until fall for budgetary reasons, when costs of other projects are known. Stephanie said the hall being on the Historic Register would require that any repairs be "in keeping with the architecture."

SALE OF THE CENTER CHURCH

Stephanie said the Historical Society has "almost reached the ten percent required for a purchase and sales agreement." The town attorney said it would be a conflict of interest for him to handle the deal and has recommended someone else. The Historical Society will meet on March 30 to discuss progress as well as an Open House program on May 22.

LEE MAYHEW MEMORIAL

Mark said the selectmen will coordinate Memorial Day commemorations with Walter Holland.

CEMETERY SIGNS

Signs for Johnson's Corner and Perham Corner are being made.

The following wording was approved but may need to be shortened to fit onto 18x12 inch signs. The North Cemetery sign will be on the gate, the Whittemore as well if there is a gate, otherwise on a post. The Grange sign will be attached to the front of the Town Hall.

NORTH: This graveyard began as a family plot on Nathan Brown's farm. The earliest stone dates to 1793, though the first burial was in 1775. Several Revolutionary War veterans are buried here along with members of most of the pioneer families in North Lyndeborough, including the Clark, Proctor, Senter, Stearns, Kidder, Goodrich, Atwood, Boardman, Bailey and Osgood families. In 1869, the cemetery was expanded and has almost 200 graves.

WHITTEMORE: Daniel Whittemore, the first settler in North Lyndeborough, died in 1776 and was buried on his land. Many of his descendants are interred here with several non-family members. At least three Revolutionary War veterans are among the about 20 people buried in this now-closed cemetery. The last internment was in 1989. It had been abandoned and badly vandalized when the town acquired it in 2011 from the Society for the Preservation of New Hampshire Forests which had purchased the property.

GRANGE: Pinnacle Grange No. 18 of the Patrons of Husbandry was organized in 1873 with 17 members. This influential group held many plays, fairs, debates, square dances and dinners to make many improvements to the Town Hall, including a piano, stage curtain, and upstairs kitchen. After a century of enlightening and entertaining residents and helping the community, they relinquished their charter in the 1970s.

COMMON AND MEMORIAL DAY

Mark will check with Walter Holland concerning Memorial Day events.

The Common will be cleaned and raked as weather permits so that flowers can be planted early in May.

Bob Howe will oversee cleaning the area around the Pound and the Town Hall, weeding, brush cutting, etc. The area next to the Hall's handicapped ramp may need attention.

Flowers will be planted at the Glass Factory and Clark Pottery signs and at the Mayhew Memorial. Changes to the Glass Factory Road/Route 31 junction will not be made this summer.

TOWN HISTORY UPDATE

Jessie has completed the first draft of the school chapter, having received some Babes In Schoolland records from Fran Bujak.

Stephanie and Bob Howe will continue work on the Vietnam vets list.

OTHER BUSINESS

Should the Commission consider installing "Welcome to Lyndeborough" signs on Route 31, the Milford end of Center Road and the 2nd N.H. Turnpike?

It was agreed that Lyndeborough is one of the few area towns without them, and that the signs should be simple, the name and date of establishment.

However, Lyndeborough has three dates: granted by the Province of Massachusetts as Salem-Canada in 1735; chartered by the Masonian Proprietors in 1753; and by the Province of New Hampshire as Town of Lyndeborough in 1764.

It was suggested that both Salem-Canada and the final charter dates should be included. The idea will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The next meeting was set for Friday, April 26, 2021 at the town hall.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Clerk