

Town of Lunenburg Historical Commission

Rebecca Lantry, Chair
Richard McGrath, member
Cullen Dwyer, Clerk
Jennifer Sanderson, member
Bill Lakso, member



Meeting Minutes

March 5th, 2019, 6:30PM, Ritter Building 960 Massachusetts Avenue

ATTENDANCE/QUORUM

Meeting Opened by Chair Lantry at 6:40 with all members present.

REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Minutes for February 6th, 2019, were read and approved.

PRESENT BUSINESS:

Community Preservation Act: Chair Lantry discussed the drafting of a warrant article for Town Meeting to adopt a community preservation act, which would require a 3%/year assessment tax on property, plus a fee on each real estate transaction of \$40. The program would ultimately bring more money into the town through matching state funds to support restoration of historic sites and buildings, as well as other projects to benefit the community. Lantry questioned whether she should publicize the article, or simply present it at town meeting. Dwyer recommended publicizing it, but cautioned that a new tax would probably not be well-received unless town assessments were rolled back commensurately. McGrath proposed that the matter first be discussed with the finance commission and BoS.

Lunenburg Ledger Articles: Bill Lakso reported that the replacement weathervane for Town Hall was nearly complete, and presented a draft of an article on this artifact, and the craftsmanship involved in designing and building a replacement. He solicited information on the old weathervane and recommendations for his article.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

Battles House at 68 Elm Street: Lantry contacted the property owner and confirmed that he had listed it with a real-estate agency at the price of \$199,900. Discussion followed, and it was said that interested parties had viewed the property. McGrath noted this price was much higher than the one he had previously discussed with the Commission, and was too high considering the necessary cost of renovating the house. As such, the owner had not fulfilled the conditions of the demolition delay bylaw to make a bona fide, reasonable attempt to sell the property. Dwyer motioned to contact the building inspector and convey this opinion, as well as to contact the owner and urge him to lower the price. Lakso seconded the motion and it carried.

New policies for submitting agendas: Lantry complained that Ms. Griffin from the town clerk's office now required agendas to be submitted in PDF format, and that she had effectively imposed shorter deadlines for submissions.

Next Meeting: Scheduled for April 2nd, 2019

Meeting adjourned: at 7:30