

LYNDEBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

Aug. 25, 2023, Center Hall 7 p.m.

Members present: Stephanie Roper, Lou Rota, Robert Howe, Jessie Salisbury,
Selectman Mark Chamberlain

Also: Leo Trudeau

There was nothing for Show and Tell

Members toured the grounds to determine the layout and placement for Sunday's Community Day. It was mostly up to Lou who had arranged the farmers' and crafters markets, found (and paid for) the band, and Leo who needed to position the Artillery. The tent and tables were in place and set up for Rose Mountain Rumble on Saturday.

The minutes of July 28 were approved on a motion by Mark, seconded by Rob.

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

NEEDED REPAIRS AT CITIZENS' HALL

Leo said he had inspected the building, underneath to try to determine what is causing a "sagging" in a part of the building.

He said a contributing factor is a section of the chimney which was not removed during the renovations of 1999-2000, for lack of money. Stephanie, who was part of the renovations committee, agreed there was no money and that Phil Brooks had devised the plan that was followed.

Leo said the chimney is not used, will never be used, and should be removed to relieve the pressure on the foundations.

Bob said the selectmen had discussed the issue and decided the chimney should be removed and that an engineering study should be made of the building.

Stephanie said because the hall is on the Historic Register, the Historic District Commission also needs to be consulted.

It was decided by consensus that someone should talk to Phil Brooks, the selectman can begin the process of finding an engineer, and that both the Heritage Commission and the Historic District Commission have to approve anything that is done. Both Commissions will meet on Sept. 29.

Bob said the selectmen had discussed having both halls studied at the same time.

COMMUNITY DAY

Stephanie borrowed a selection of games from the Community College and has prepared signs. We will provide free water. The Fire Department is doing lunch. The Lafayette Artillery will have the cannon on display. The library will provide crafts and inside games inside the hall.

STONE ARCH BRIDGES MARKER

Jessie said Dig Safe had inspected the site as well as the two on the Turnpike for the Welcome signs. She has not heard any more from the sign maker or Rick McQuade.

TOWN CHARTER

Stephanie said it was probably framed using acid free paper as that was used in 1973, but the UV protection of the time was not what it is now. Costs will be determined, probably in the \$400-\$500 range and who will pay for it – Historical Society or Heritage Commission. The Historical Society had the original framing done as a gift to the town. The charter is still in safe storage.

HOUSE SIGNS

Three people have requested them – Lorrie Haskell on Brandy Brook Road, John and Joan Giese, owners of the former Poor Farm, and George Ayres on Center Road whose house is presumed to be part of the former Gould Tavern. They will be looked into after Community Day.

COMMON

Jessie was to meet with the sign maker to discuss a sign for the railroad foundation fence and repair/replacement of the railroad sign, but has not yet set a time. It has been suggested that the foundation sign include a picture of the railroad station.

TOWN History

Sales are going well and costs have almost been covered.

GIS PROJECT

Mark said there has been no meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

Bob suggested that we look into LCHIP funding to help with the repairs to both halls. That requires a cost estimate, an architectural study, at least half of the costs secured, environmental/historical/cultural evaluation, and approval by town meeting.

The next meeting was set for Friday, Sept. 29, immediately following the annual meeting of the Historic District Commission.

The meeting adjourned sat 7:45 p.m.

Secretary.

ADDENDUM

Following the meeting. Stephanie checked with Scott who recalled: “The Historic District Commission passed rules over a decade ago that gave the commission a role as a coordinating body addressing not only the actual district but the other historic public structures as well, specifically Citizens’ Hall.”

That was part of becoming a Certified Public Government, which did not happen. He also said, since the Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places, if you tear down the chimney, you’ll need to replace it with something that looks like a chimney. It is essential to not alter the historical integrity of the exterior. The two chimneys were highlighted for the application to the register in 1999.

Federal guidelines have to be met or it could mean removal from the Register leaving fewer options for grants.

So, it can be removed, but something has to be put in its place.