

EAST LYME HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION MINUTES

Via ZOOM, Niantic
December 1, 2020

Members present: Barb Johnson Low, Steve Marks-Hamilton, Dick Waterman, Mark Christensen, Dan Cunningham, Rob McCauley, Benn Bullock

Meeting opened at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS: None

AGENDA ADDITIONS: None.

MINUTES: November minutes approved. Motion by Mark, second by Steve, unanimous.

FILED

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

Dec 21, 2020 AT 8:25 AM/PM

OLD BUSINESS:

Bramble Horn ATC
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund Grant Proposal: Barb and Benn have made requests, but have to date received no word from Gary Goeschel as to whether First Selectman has signed proposal or as to the date and time of Gary's meeting with the State Historic Preservation staff regarding this proposal.

Publicity/ Ease of Access through Town of East Lyme Website to Historic Properties Commission and to East Lyme's owned historic properties. Barb is working with town's IT department to streamline access to the Historic Properties page from the homepage of the town website. The HPC page acts as the hub for links / access to the town's list of historic homes, to its three historic museums, and to the ELHS "History in the Making" website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review of definition and organization of HPC –Discussion led by Benn Bullock and Dick Waterman. Dick and Benn reviewed the original stated mission of the HPC and pointed out that even though the Brookside Farm Museum now has met the state requirement to survey and define its boundaries, the museum has not yet been added to the HPC by the town. They would like to correct this omission and address other concerns such as solidifying the HPC as the clearinghouse for all historic properties issues.

New ZOOM Account: Barb reported that HPC has used some of its funds to purchase a ZOOM account that will allow unlimited meeting durations. 2021 HPC meetings will meet at 7:00PM via ZOOM until further notice.

Secretary for HPC: Barb inquired about how to acquire a recording secretary for HPC. Finance Director Anna Johnson explained that we must request funding for a secretary position in our 2021 budget proposal.

REPORTS

- **Agribusiness Group:** Kudos to the East Lyme Giving Garden, This project is an outgrowth of the Samuel Smith Farmstead community garden project. Mark reported that during the 2020 season the Giving Garden group harvested over 700 pounds of produce for distribution to the needy through the Shoreline Soup Kitchen at St. John's Church in Niantic. This summer the Garden also secured 4 acres at Church Lane, owned by the Baptist Church. The "Pollinator Pathways" group has planted nearly 2 acres of wildflowers on the back half. Giving Garden group control the front half, and plan on growing crops on about 1/2 acre in spring 2021. Acreage will increase with time. Giving Garden will continue to use about 10 plots at Samuel Smith Farmstead Garden.
- **Brookside Farm Museum: No report**
- **Cemetery Association:** Rob reported that they are repairing tombstone of Calvin Spencer, known for "the merry misadventures of Calvin Spencer)
- **Library / Museum Collections and Management Project:** Continuing research and gathering of information.
- **Samuel Smith Farmstead:** Benn reported that the front and side of house has been painted, and the second of paint will be applied in spring, 2021. The Farmstead's "End of Harvest" event garnered 56 visitors all of whom were willingly COVID compliant. House has been cleaned up and closed for winter season.
- **Thomas Lee House:** Rob reported that the house is providing tours by appointment only and is otherwise closed for the winter season.

REGULAR MEMBERS: Barb Johnson Low, Chair, Maggi Prokop, Clerk, Mark Christensen, Steve Marks-Hamilton, Rob. McCauley. Alternates: Burt Hobby, R. Waterman, Benn Bullock, and Dan Cunningham, selectman representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Barb Johnson Low bjl