

EAST LYME HISTORIC PROPERTIES COMMISSION MINUTES

Via ZOOM, Niantic

January 5, 2021

Members present: Barb Johnson Low, Maggi Prokop, Mark Christensen, Dan Cunningham, Benn Bullock, Burt Hobby

Meeting opened at 7:02 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Alternates Benn Bullock and Burt Hobby were seated.

PUBLIC DELEGATIONS: None

AGENDA ADDITIONS: Burt Hobby added discussion regarding the Historic Flanders Baptist Church Parsonage under New Business.

MINUTES: December minutes approved. Motion by Mark, second by Maggi, unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

OLD BUSINESS:

Connecticut Historic Restoration Fund Grant Proposal: Benn reported that the Town submitted the grant proposal in December. According to Town Planner Gary Goeschel, we should hear from the State sometime in January.

Publicity/ Ease of Access through Town of East Lyme Website to Historic Properties Commission and East Lyme's owned historic properties. Barb reported that the Town Website has been modified to include access to the Historic Properties page from both the Government and the Community headings on the toolbar. The HPC Page now provides users direct links / access information to the three historic house museums and the historic cemetery association, the current historic house inventory, the ELHS Student Blog, and information regarding governance of each museum.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers for 2021:

Selectman Dan Cunningham oversaw election of new officers.

- **Chair:** Burt nominated Mark Christensen for Chair. Barb seconded motion. Passed, unanimous. Welcome, new HPC Chair Mark Christensen.
- **Clerk:** Maggi nominated Steve Marks-Hamilton for Clerk. Mark seconded motion. Passed, unanimous. Welcome, new Clerk, Steve Marks-Hamilton.

FILED

Jan 15 2021 AT 3:44 AM/PM
Carrie Bullock
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

2021-2022 Historic Properties Commission / Samuel Smith Farmstead Budget

Barb and Benn presented the budget as proposed. Initial discussion with the First Selectman and the Finance Director will take place via ZOOM on Thursday at 2PM.

Flanders Baptist Church Parsonage: The parsonage, built in 1870 and part of the Town's Historic House Inventory but located on property that is zoned for commercial development, is for sale. Burt reported that the church appears to have found a buyer with plans to reside in the building rather than tear it down, thereby retaining its important historic presence in town.

REPORTS

- **Agribusiness Group:** Mark reported that the Giving Garden collaborated with Sustainable Connecticut to create an online fundraiser this fall. Sustainable Connecticut agreed to match up to \$7500 in donations. Giving Garden raised \$9000.00 in donations. This, in addition to the \$7500.00 match, generated a total of \$16,500.00 for the Garden. Mark suggested that the historic house museums and/or their Friends groups explore the possibility of working with Sustainable Connecticut to raise funds for their work.
- **Brookside Farm Museum:** Maggi reported no December meeting, no report.
- **Cemetery Association:** Rob reported that the formers Lulu's Restaurant property is being sold. This property abuts the Head-of-the-River Historic Cemetery and there are concerns about boundaries between the two. Discussion is ongoing.
- **Library / Museum Collections and Management Project:** Barb reported no December meeting, no report.
- **Samuel Smith Farmstead:** Benn reported no December meeting, no report other than submittal of the grant.
- **Thomas Lee House:** Burt reported no December meeting, no report.

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