Lenox Historical Commission meeting, July 9, 2020

**Present:**

Olga Weiss, Cindy Weiss, Lucy Kennedy, Jan Chague. Guest: Tom Johnson, owner of Birchwood Inn. The meeting was held by Zoom due to the coronavirus shutdown.

1. Endangered houses: Mon. July 13, there will be a site visit at 4 p.m. to Blantyre and the ZBA meeting is July 22 at 7 p.m. The plans are under the ZBA section of the town website. Lucy has raised concerns about the height of the hotel addition blocking the vista and about the windows. Jan notes that the old East Street in the woods on the property would be built over by the development (it is now a trail). She will write a letter to the ZBA raising a concern about this. Olga raises questions about whether the vistas are being preserved. 211 Main and 112 Main St. are being fixed up. The Gateway Inn was sold and is said to continue as an inn. No further word on the Winstanley property, although there are two lawsuits about its development. The Kemble Inn is for sale as is Ethylwind. Osceolo is also on the market. Springlawn has had zoning for development approved. The Summer White House is still for sale. Tom mentions that the Cornell Inn is for sale. We have had no contact from Chabad about 17 West Street, which is deteriorating. Lucy noted that after contacting Gwen and Pam Kleber she found out that there is no restriction on large historic houses being turned into apartments or condos.
2. Olga said she would like more information, after listening to the Mass. Preservation Zoom meeting this week about funding historic preservation, about what funds are available for small projects.
3. Update on demolition delay and PermitEyes: Lucy said she has no progress to report. However, there is at 41 Tucker St. a request to demolish an attached garage and replace it with a house extension. The demolition needs to go through the demolition delay process after the owners get ZBA approval. Lucy volunteers to draft letters that the Hist. Com. will need re: notifications on demolition delay and any action we take.
4. Marissa Marvelli is finished with her survey of Lenox historic structures. We should get a report shortly.
5. East Street School: Jan is considering emailing the owner of Eastover about it.
6. Cemetery sign: Olga will send off the prototypes again. The sign maker we chose is over budget and she will look further. The sign maker wanted to charge $500 to install the sign.
7. Brochure plans: Jan describes our plan to distribute through inns and businesses the Historical Society brochures about the structures in towns. Tom says he thinks it’s a great idea because his guests look for things to do and would enjoy seeing historic houses in town.
8. Olga will try to get copies of the tax relief brochures from the Mass. Historical Commission re: historic structures.
9. The June minutes will be amended.
10. Tom should get a historic plaque for the Birchwood Inn and Osceola needs one, too; Jan will follow up. He raises the issue of what is happening to the clock on the Church on the Hill – it is not keeping time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Next meeting: Thurs., Aug. 13 at 2:30 p.m.