Lenox Historical Commission meeting, Sept. 13, 2018

**Present:**

Olga Weiss, Jan Chague, Lavinia Meeks, Suzanne Pelton, Cindy Weiss

Guest: Jim Biancolo

1. Previous minutes (June 2018) were not sent to members, so review will be postponed.
2. NR designation update: The National Register designation will take 18 months. It is being considered by the Mass. Historical Commission.
3. Westinghouse plaque next steps: Suzanne and Olga have looked at a number of boulders for the plaque. Olga took a tour with William Gop (413-637-5525), director of the DPW. He did not like our chosen location because it interferes with snow plowing. (The chosen site was at the NE corner of Housatonic and Church streets.) He prefers the corner of Church and Walker streets (the corner where the plaque for the Liberty Tree is located). Gop suggested an elevated area behind the benches.

Another idea, from Suzanne: A plaque could be mounted on a post.

Jan moved that we vote on a rock or a post. The rock won the vote. Commission members suggested the size of the plaque (now 14 inches x 20 inches in layout) be reduced. Suzanne will find out what the next smaller size is. Commission members should look at the new proposed site and see if it is acceptable.

1. House date plaques: Lavinia sent packets to the remaining houses and will follow up to have the owners sign up for the plaques. Olga will follow up with having the plaques sent to Jim Biancolo for prototypes to be made and Bob Leonard to be produced. Commission members will be kept informed. It was agreed that the house dates should be made bigger for better visibility.
2. Cemetery sign: Ann LaBier at Color Connection would like to make the sign. Olga will make other inquiries, too.
3. Historic Preservation Plan action plan: We need to get more volunteers because of the number of assignments to the HC in the plan, such as monitoring town boards. An example: There is a hearing on Sept. 19 by the Zoning Board of Appeals on a proposal for an additional road at the Cranwell project in front of the old house. The HC needs to write a letter of opposition. There will also be an application for a convenience store at the Hoff gasoline station (already approved by the HDC). Suzanne will write a letter by the ZBA’s Oct. 2 deadline on the Cranwell road. Another letter will be sent re: the need for the HC to have input into the look and feel of the Hoff design.

Suzanne will ask Peter Benton, the historic preservation plan consultant, for a suggestion for a historic preservation consultant who could advise the HC.

We have asked the Brushwood Farms owners to take affirmative action on the damaged roof and there has been no response. Olga asked BJ Church, the building inspector, if we could put a lien on the property and do a remediation.

1. Lucy Kennedy has volunteered to identify and list houses/buildings in Lenox and Lenox Dale that need Form As and Bs and for buildings in danger of demolition. Suzanne has names of volunteers who could help. Olga has a list from the town assessor of pre- 1968 buildings. Jim suggests double checking the year built on the assessor’s list with the state historic database.
2. Repair of Westinghouse lamp bases: Jim has looked at and evaluated the lamp bases around town. There are 17 bases in poor shape, primarily on Church Street. He checked a couple of local refinishers to get estimates for re-doing them. The first company, East Coast Refinishing and Surface Stripping, has been redoing St. Joseph’s Church sidewalk railing, a project similar to the lamp bases (Jim showed pictures). Two bases (the minimum) would cost $2,020.

Jim met with Daniel P. Stevens of Benton Brook Metals who said the lamp base problem was with non-UV paint, a common issue. He suggested using a rubber gasket between the footing and the lamp base His estimate is $3,200 for four ($800 each).

Another company suggested the problem was due to road salt.

If the project costs less than $10,000, no RFP will be required.

Neither supplier would need a police presence during the work.

Another option is just to wire-brush the bases and repaint them.

Another option is to let Daniel do four and let Bill Gop (the town DPW) do four with wire brush and paint and see how they compare over time. Daniel would be willing to advise on paint.

Bottle green is the paint formula used by Alloy Castings, which made the lamps.

The consensus was to paint four of the lamp bases bottle green.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m. The next meeting will be Thurs., Oct. 11.