

Lenox Historical Commission meeting, Feb. 3, 2020

Present:

Jan Chague, Cindy Weiss, Lucy Kennedy, Olga Weiss

1. The commission met and signed a contract with Neil Larsen and Marissa Marvelli of Larson Fisher Associates, Inc., Woodstock, NY, the consulting firm that is preparing an inventory for 703 Lenox historical buildings. They will develop a spreadsheet of Lenox properties with annotations. Their survey will include a comprehensive listing of which structures are more than 75 years old and thus eligible for demolition delay. The survey will include landscape features and vistas. There will be photos of each property and an overview of the characteristics of the property. The spreadsheet will indicate which properties appear eligible for National Register designation. The field work will be done in 90 days and will involve a dozen trips for Marvelli. The report would take another 60 days to prepare once data is gathered. The HC would review the spreadsheet before it is finalized. The consultants expect to be done this fiscal year, by July 1, 2020.
2. The minutes of Jan. 9 were accepted.
3. Follow-ups on the Jan. 9 meeting: The Winstanley property development proposal was approved by the ZBA. Cemetery map: Kate Hixson, designer, needs to come to the HC and show us final design options. Olga will contact her. Demolition delay: Chris Kitchener has contacted the building inspector about getting demolition delay added to the computerized Permiteyes system used for building permits. Lucy will follow up on the Form B on 17 West for the next meeting.
4. Massachusetts Historical Commission grant: We were turned down because we were not on the CLG list, but Lenox was encouraged to apply for a larger Lenox Dale project in the 2021 grant round.
5. East Street schoolhouse: The owner's plan, according to a query by Phil Considine, is to make it into a vegetable stand for produce grown on the farm.
6. Jan prepared a binder, a watchlist of endangered buildings in Lenox.
7. Plans for next year (budget): \$7,500 for historical signs to be scattered through the town. \$5,000 for map handouts? (walking tours). \$500 for website maintenance. \$500 to \$1,000 for education activities. Brochure for realtors (no cost) for what to look at in purchasing an old house.

The meeting adjourned at 3:52 pm.

Next meeting: March 12 at 4 p.m.