



BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
APPROVED Meeting Minutes Thursday, January 14, 2011- 5:30 PM @ Elm Hill Farm

Members in Attendance: Ron Couture, Bill Puza, Peg Puza, Ann Mathieu, Lois O'Leary

1. Minutes from December meeting were reviewed. Peg motioned to approve; Ann seconded. Vote = 5 yeas / 0 nays
2. New Correspondence: The Commission has initiated a new 1-year membership in Ancestry.com for genealogical research on Brookfield residents interred in the Cemetery. Ron will submit for reimbursement of membership fee. Discussed the military discharge papers found (signed by John Hancock). N.E. Document Center can advise on conservation/restoration.
3. Trail Update: Bill & Ron – Both walked the trail with members of West Brookfield & North Brookfield Hist. Comm. and agree to go forward when weather improves. Audubon Society also approves. Bonnie (RRI) also would like Elm Hill Farm included in the plan. Would like to place markers along cleared walking trail – Haymaker logo could be used.
4. Framing Update: Matt was absent; will wait until next scheduled meeting.
5. Cemetery Gate Update: Discussed details of restoration process. Goal is to rededicate for Civil War 150th Anniversary; work may not be complete. There may be a possibility of utilizing funds leftover from Quabog 350th events.
6. Civil War 350th Grant – Application was approved by the Community Club according to Lois. The Comm. Club will make payment directly to reenactment group / speaker / etc. that is hired for the event. Discussed a program from the 1890 dedication that Ron found. One hundred sixty Civil War veterans attended that ceremony. (Possible contacts: Mass. 15th, Hitchcock Academy (Marcia Beale). Discussed C.P. Blanchard's account of interviewed returning Civil War soldiers. Peg volunteered to transcribe records from the bound volume.
7. Elm Hill fundraiser event by Commission: Discussed potential ideas – a Civil War Tea, a Ladies' Event centered around the Society for N. E. Crafts, a Dairy Month "Farmers' Day", etc. Will bring ideas to next meeting. NOTE: Elm Hill has items that can be used for the event – no need to rent, include a tent (30' x 40'?) tables & chairs, etc.

Next Meeting will be Thursday, February 11th, 2011 @ 5:30 PM – Elm Hill Farm



BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

APPROVED Meeting Minutes Thursday, February 10, 2011– 5:30 PM @ Elm Hill Farm

Members in Attendance:

Ron Couture, Ann Mathieu, Lois O'Leary, Matt Custer, Bill Puza, Peg Puza

Minutes from January meeting were reviewed. Lois motioned to approve, Ann seconded.

Vote = 6 yeas / 0 nays

❖ **Mail / Correspondence:**

- Nancy Sawyer, Tantasqua Reg'l. would like to meet with Commission about student volunteers for Cemetery / Trail projects. Will be 'community service' projects, not graded. For cemetery, will include mapping & cataloging of old section. For trail, will include marking trail and clearing later once the snow melts. Bill willing to meet soon to at least begin marking trail. Work by student volunteers will be done outside of school hours. Two students have come forward to volunteer.
- State has announced list of grants. Chairman explained grant process (deadline is March 25, 2011) and will pursue opportunity to apply. The Jeppson Farm is an area of interest.
- Donna Neylon has announced that Brookfield now has a presence on Facebook, and invites town commissions to participate. Given that we do not feel that it is in keeping with our direction, Peg motioned that the Historical Commission opt to not participate. Ann seconded motion. Vote = 6 yeas / 0 nays.
- Historical Commission will be seeking 1 new member to bring total to 7.

❖ **Civil War GAR Project:**

- Peg has begun the transcription of The Ferdinand Dexter Post GAR registry of 1890. The project was described, and a sample of its current format was shown to Commission members for their approval. Additional documents, i.e., lists of Civil War veterans who are interred in cemetery, etc., can be cross-referenced later.

❖ **Civil War Event / Elm Hill Farm Fund Raiser:**

- Ann: Presented ideas for a possible challenge of local school chorus groups, including Tantasqua HS & Jr. High, Quaboag Reg'l., David Prouty, etc. with the winner to receive a trophy. The 2 areas of concern are that Elm Hill may not have adequate parking for a large crowd, and that finding a suitable date on which Elm Hill is available and the students are still in school. Ron, Ann & Lois will follow up on those details. Commission would like to sell tickets in advance in order to know the crowd size for parking, refreshments, seating requirements, etc. Alternate ideas include hosting a "Civil War Tea," etc.

❖ **Spooner Door Knocker Update:**

- Matt: For \$75 N.E. Document Center will scan & enhance the artwork (Bathsheba's Final Hour) to use in the framed display. Still pursuing access to the original from the Antiquarian Society. Possibly will reduce the size of the frame (originally 30" x 42") for aesthetics. Matt will begin working on writing up the narrative to include in the frame. The 2 Brookfield sideboards are still being worked on.

❖ **Town Hall Office & new computer:**

- Ron has continued with cleanup and reorganization of the Commission office at Town Hall. Commission has been given a refurbished computer, which Bill & Ron will meet to set up in the office tomorrow.

❖ **Budget Overview & Needs:**

- Ron will prepare details by deadline of March 15th. Commission is planning to possibly request additional funding for restoration of the military document signed by John Hancock.

❖ **Ancestry.com Membership:**

- Members signed request for reimbursement and briefly discussed its future use for genealogical research on Brookfield residents.

Next meeting will be Thursday, March 10, 2011, 5:30 PM @ Elm Hill Farm