

East Longmeadow Historical Commission

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Monday, June 8, 2020

Location: Little Red School House, 35 School Street, East Longmeadow, Ma.

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m.

***Held outside the School house and all were social distancing 6 feet apart.

It was noted that the meeting was being audio taped by Sherry McKeon, Secretary and no others were recording the meeting.

Present were commissioners: Bruce Moore, John Makara and Dunkin, Ralph Cooley, Sherry McKeon, Kathleen Sheehan, Nancy Heath, Tom Behan.

Associate Member: Joyce Kent.

Visiting the meeting was Tom Behan

The minutes from the last meeting, February 10, 2020 were reviewed. A motion was made to accept the minutes from our March meeting by John Makara and seconded by Kathy Sheehan all in favor and the motion passed.

Treasurer's report – no report this month as the town is closed due to the Covid 19 virus.

NOTE: We have not held a meeting for the past 2 months due to the Covid 19 Virus

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Mathew's Swamp update from Kathy Sheehan. She has been looking at deeds from 1600's stating that Samuel Pynchon started granting out land. Mathew's Swamp is between Prospect and Shaker Rd., Chestnut St. and Spruce Street. Kathy had maps from 1890 printed out for us to look at. John Mathews got a grant for this land. The men with money from this area were the only ones who could attend the meetings and receive grants for land. Most deeds referred to Pacousic Brook which meanders all over.

Kathy transcribed a deed stating that 1765 when J. David Burt gave his two sons Jonathan and Elijah each part of his property; a tract of land lying in the township of Springfield called Mathew's swamp, 175 acres to be split, from Springfield in the precinct of Longmeadow in a place called Mathew's Swamp. David Burt kept for himself 1/3 part of a certain quarry of mechanical stone.

Also, a 1667 deed stating that John Mathews was selling property back to John Pynchon but was giving him 3 years to decide if he wanted to buy it back. Captain Pynchon was paying in timber and

January 1761 – about the same time as small pox Burt's property abutted Mathews Swamp.

Amos Webster's home on Prospect and Spruce Street also abutted Mathew's Swamp. Pastor Stephen Williams from Longmeadow regularly visited people Quarantined for Small Pox in the home in Mathew's swamp.

Thank you Kathy for working on this!

2. Museum Opening, March 21, John Makara and Dunkin ☺ and Ralph Cooley hosted. Bruce Moore also came. John Fitzpatrick and his dad visited outside and one other visitor later in the day.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Train Depot update – an addition was put on and a new beautiful deck. Opening is now to be sometime in September as they have to install plumbing etc.
2. Slate of officers was presented by the Nominating Committee for the term, July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. Sherry McKeon made a motion to vote on the slate and Kathy Sheehan seconded it. All in favor and the motion passed.
* Slate is attached
3. We discussed opening the museum this month and we decided to wait until September 2020 and review this again due to the Covid 19 Virus.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Bruce Moore let us know that Donna Martinez, President of the Norcross House sent a thank you letter for our donation of \$1000.00 towards their renovation project.
2. Library Case display is on hold until the Library is open again.
4. The new printer for the Library is on hold as we are still researching for the right one.
3. Ralph let us know that his summer party is postponed until the fall.

ADJOURNMENT:

7:45 - John Makara made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded, all in favor and the motion passed.

NEXT MEETING: September 14, 2020

Respectfully Written by:
Sherry McKeon, Secretary