**Brimfield Historical Commission**

February 4, 2021

Meeting notes

1. **SHRAB grant:** Mike reported that funds are available for veteran’s history preservation through this grant. Priorities include the following:
2. Preserving oral histories of veterans in town
3. Conservation of the Civil War memorial cannon
4. Document in the library signed by 5 Hessian soldiers

Grant writing assistance could be obtained through an offer from Suzanne Collins or our committee members. Those seeking the grant can apply for up to $20,000. Conservators would need to give estimates on costs for preservation so we would know how much money to apply for.

*\*Ryan advised the commission that our selectmen’s liaison is Carolyn Haley*

1. **Purple Heart Town designation**: John reported that we still have not heard from Mark Avis, the veteran’s agent despite being sent two letters. One was dated 11/5/20 and the second dated 1/24/21. Ryan advised that he received a response that the town was approved and five signs were ordered and placed at the following locations: Sturbridge Rd., both ends of route 20, Brookfield Rd., Wales Rd., and Warren Rd. Commission members expressed both dissatisfaction that we were not notified, and gratitude that it was accomplished. No one has seen these signs, however, and we discussed the need to photograph them in place.

1. **Gazebo Project**: Mark updated the commission about the current status having spoken with Mike Doyle via phone. Discussed the need to speak with the building inspector about whether we need to buy the plans from Kloter Farms for $1500 or not. Discussed the possibility of the project going out to bid. Discussed that the planning board and selectmen will have an informational session for the town on March 3rd for the town. Support for the gazebo project is once again needed at this meeting. The following is an update on fundraising:
2. **Facebook Page (Adrienne):** the FB page she created has been shared by the Brimfield Community Partnership. Discussed the need to pay for “a blast”, invite people to like the FB page, share the page to the Brimfield Community page, and use a paypal link. The community partnership will help with fundraising on our behalf by letting us use their paypal link. The press release was copied and pasted to the FB page already.

*\*\*setting up a post office box was suggested*

1. **Article for newspapers (Susan**): We will add the PO box number to the press release. Discussed releasing the article at the same time the thermometer goes on the common.
2. **Thermometer panel (Sue):** Reported that the selectmen voted to allow the thermometer to sit on the common temporarily during the fundraising drive pending approval of the building inspector. Ryan suggested that a sketch be submitted along with the information that it’s temporary and sponsored by the town.
3. **Large postcard mailing:** town was founded in 1701 and this needs to be corrected on the postcard.
4. **Book (Mike):** 20+ items have been reviewed, 31 need to be reviewed, 51 have been completed. There are 30 possible additional topics. He would like to have about 20 more for a total of 100. Discussed how this might be funded since there will be 150-200 pages. With photos it might grown larger. Might need sponsors and/or solicitation of donations.

*Meeting adjourned at 7:08pm Motion by Sue. Second by Susan*