

Heath Historical Commission

Sawyer Hall, Monday, August 3, 2009

Minutes

*Present:* Carol-Anne Eldridge, Margaret Freeman, Eric Grinnell, Pegge Howland, Bill Lattrell,  
Nina Marshall

*Absent:* Jan Carr

Meeting convened by Eric Grinnell at 7:15 p.m.

*Email addresses:*

Jan: [jcarr1@verizon.net](mailto:jcarr1@verizon.net)  
Carol-Anne: [caenh@aol.com](mailto:caenh@aol.com)  
Margaret: [freemamh@lavc.edu](mailto:freemamh@lavc.edu)  
Eric: [egrinnell@charlemont.org](mailto:egrinnell@charlemont.org)  
Pegge: [howlandd@crocker.com](mailto:howlandd@crocker.com)  
Bill: [lattrell.omalley@verizon.net](mailto:lattrell.omalley@verizon.net)  
Nina: [n.marshall@conservation.org](mailto:n.marshall@conservation.org)

*New members:* Bill Lattrell and Margaret Freeman.

*Review of past work.* **Eric Grinnell** reported on the following activities:

- grants acquired for inventory preparation and accomplishment; \$15,000 awarded to State Department of Education to write the actual grant; Highland Communities Initiative.
- the need for ongoing work on the historic properties survey plan of every house in Heath over 50 years old. Number of eighteenth century houses in Heath remarkable for its size. Identification of original ownership and successors important. Some descriptions were well done, some less well, some still being worked on.

- survey plan needed for historic designation. Chris Kelly, who lives in Shelburne and works for the State, coordinating for the town, transformed the survey forms onto the computer along with pictures.
- achievement of designation for the Heath Center Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places. Grants available as a result. Expansion of the district logical if there's enthusiasm for it.
- public celebration held Saturday July 26, 2008 at which old timers shared their memories of Heath and certificates were distributed to households in the newly designated historic district.

*Discussion:*

**Pegge Howland** commented that it would be helpful to have a list of Heath commissions and committees with their functions to determine who is responsible for problems that surface from time to time. The HHC needs to be more proactive in town and with the Select Board in order to speak to what has historical significance.

**Bill Lattrell** questioned if houses could apply individually for historic landmark status. **Nina Marshall** responded that a district could be identified which would then include all sites within it.

*Areas of Interest:*

**Pegge Howland** and **Margaret Freeman** agreed to work on the relationship with the town and other relevant parties. **Pegge Howland** suggested that a welcome wagon be started in town for new residents.

**Bill Lattrell** and **Carol-Anne Eldridge** both interested in heritage landscapes and preserving stone walls (along with the Planning Board). They agreed to work on a "Did You Know?" board for making residents aware of rules governing the woods, walls, etc. and information on invasive species, wildlife, etc.

**Eric Grinnell** and **Nina Marshall** expressed interest in preserving history that is already known and will work with the Historical Society to promote such preservation.

Members agreed that Commissioners should each be assigned the responsibility for a particular project and develop a subcommittee of townspeople to work on specific tasks needed.

*Inventory work:*

First step to prioritize houses needing more work on their surveys. Members agreed to assess progress on an annual basis. Second step to learn how to do inventories; suggestion made that 20 minutes at a meeting be devoted to this. **Bill Lattrell** noted that Registry of Deeds information can be accessed online, perhaps making a trip to Greenfield unnecessary.

*Housekeeping:*

**Eric Grinnell**, as pro-tem chair, will prepare the necessary paperwork for adding the Commission's two new members.

Material storage: problem in locating a suitable place in the town office. **Pegge Howland** said that we now have two cabinets. **Eric Grinnell** noted that we have been promised a second drawer, and that he will take charge of finding a placement for the second file cabinet.

**Margaret Freeman** suggested that HHC should make its presence felt at the Heath Fair, and agreed to look into the costs of preparing a rack card. **Pegge Howland** offered space on the Historical Society table for it to be distributed free to interested parties.

*Elections:*

Chair: Margaret Freeman (nom. Pegge Howland, sec. Nina Marshall, unanimous).

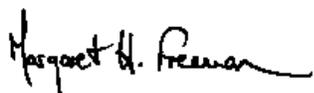
Secretary: voluntary rotation among members to take minutes.

*Proposed agenda for next meeting:*

- Set up a schedule of activities for the year.
- 20 min. session on how to prepare inventories.
- Discussion of possibility of hiring a secretary.

*Next meeting:* Monday September 14, at 7:00 p.m. second floor, Sawyer Hall.

Respectfully submitted,



4

HHC 08-03-09

Margaret H. Freeman