

Heath Historical Commission
Sawyer Hall, October 5, 2009

Minutes

Present: Jan Carr, Nina Marshall, Pegge Howland, Margaret Freeman, Carol-Anne Eldridge, Bill Lattrell

Absent: Eric Grinnell

The meeting was brought to order at 7:07 PM

1. Approval of Minutes for September 14th. Minutes were reviewed and approved. Motion to approve by Jan Carr, 2nd by Pegge Howland, Unanimous approval.

2. Follow-up items of previous minutes:

Meeting with the Registry of Deeds has not yet been established.

Oral History-Nina reports that there are several books available on this topic: Transcribing and Editing Oral History and Oral History for the Local Historical Society. Jan Carr stated she would order these. There is also a booklet available Oral History Evaluation and Guidelines that can be ordered for a nominal fee.

3. Margaret expressed gratitude for Eric's recent Heath Herald Article addressing the recent changes in the composition of the Heath Historical Commission and the issues that we are dealing with. Pegge asked for clarification on a statement in the article about whether he meant "all houses" or "all houses over 50 years old" were being evaluated.

4. Proposal for Heath Herald Article:

Margaret discussed the next Heath Herald article which will emphasize Oral History, Heritage Landscapes, and Historical Inventories in Heath. She suggested that ask for volunteers in the article to help us with these tasks due to the great amount of work it will take to get these done.

5. There was also some discussion about Scenic Byways Designation. It was expressed that although this may not be directly in the purview of the Heath

Historical Commission it should be encouraged and coordinated with the Heath Planning Board. Protection of stone walls was also discussed. Bill stated he would contact Peggy Sloan at the Franklin Regional Council for Governments about this topic and Heritage Landscapes to get some additional information and clarification.

6. Inventory Work:

MA Historical would like to see more information on our inventory. At Del Viarengo's suggestion we looked at some of the completed for the National Historical Register (Heath Center District). We looked at five examples from this district.

As part of becoming more familiar with the inventory requirements we looked over the MA Historical Commission Inventory Forms A-F. We discussed what might be realistic in terms of time commitment and what is required. It was agreed that this process would take a considerable amount of time. Copies of document with instructions for completing a form B will be made for Bill and Margaret.

We discussed the importance of engaging home owners of historical properties and soliciting their help in completing the necessary documents. This should save some time. Pegge Howland cautioned that information garnered from home owners should be checked as occasionally there may be misconceptions or misunderstandings.

7. New Business-none

The next meeting will be on Nov. 9th at 7 PM in Sawyer Hall.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.