

Heath Historical Commission
Sawyer Hall
March 15, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:25

Present: Margaret Freeman, Jan Carr, Carol-Anne Eldridge, Eric Grinnell

Absent: Pegge Howland, Bill Lattrell, Nina Marshall

Review and approval of November 9, 2009 minutes

Eric made a motion to approve the minutes, Carol-Anne seconded. Unanimous approval.

There was a consensus for Margaret to call Sheila regarding the installation of one or two two-drawer file cabinets in the upstairs room for the Historical Commission documents. Commission and public access are required. One thought is to give up our present drawer space and replace it with two double drawers cabinets, thus gaining three drawers for our much-needed storage.

The potluck was deemed a success – a good time and a good beginning. Margaret will resend (still having difficulties with Verizon) the areas of interest sign-up list along with thank you notes to those who attended.

PILOT PROGRAM In discussing where to go from here, an idea for a Pilot Program was formed. Margaret suggested that the Freeman Farm might incorporate all three areas of interest- 1) Historic Register, 2) Heritage Landscapes, and 3) Oral History. Jan will talk with Christine and Dave at Ag meeting.

The Agricultural Commission, chaired by Leighton, is another source for a farm liaison.

BUDGET We have \$148.00 left in this year's budget. Margaret made a motion to dedicate the balance toward the purchase of a digital tape recorder. Carol-Anne seconded. There was unanimous approval for spending up to \$200.00 for a "spiffy job." A brief discussion about video-taping ensued with the decision being made to start simple and bring this up for discussion next year. A foreseeable expense for next year is the transferal of the Dickinson VHS tapes onto DVD's. As a point of reference, Margaret had a three-hour lecture on VHS transferred to DVD for \$90.00 in South Deerfield.

SCHOOL PROGRAM This program, as the Pilot Program, would encompass all three areas of Commission focus. The nine schoolhouses of Heath could be researched at the Registry of Deeds. The school cellar holes and walls would fall under the auspices of the Heritage Landscapes. Hilma, among others here in town, attended school at one of the old schoolhouses and would be invaluable oral history candidates. Possibly, an upper-grade teacher or parent might volunteer to work on this project with students. Eric pointed out that The Book of Heath has a fair amount on education in town.

WORKSHOP SCHEDULES

Eric will talk with Bob Bourke to see if he has any interest

in joining Eric and Margaret for a Registry training session and then doing the research on his house. This might lead to a pass-it-on procedure with Bob, after completing his form, then showing another Heathans how to do it for their houses.

One thought with regard to heritage landscapes was to arrange tours by neighborhoods - a block-party strategy. In this way, the interest would be localized and permission to walk on lands more easily obtained. Of course, all in town would be welcome.

Oral histories had the largest amount of interest at the Potluck sign-up sheet. A meeting will be scheduled to gather all input and ideas and then get started.

GRANTS The deadline for the MPPF Round 16 grant program is April 9th. Jan (or Nina?) will research the grant. This is probably something to pursue next year. Both the Library and the Community Hall need interior work done. Would this qualify? Margaret will contact the Colrain Commission regarding setting up a regional meeting with Chris Skelley.

Date of next meeting: A July picnic at Eric's.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Carr