

Heath Historical Commission

Annual Report 2009-2010

The Heath Historical Commission re-convened in early August with two new members to bring the Commission up to full membership. A rack card was created to distribute at the Heath Fair to announce our existence. After holding monthly meetings in 2009 to organize and plan projects for the year, we decided on the following strategies:

- Commissioners have taken primary responsibility for work in three areas as follows—
Heritage Landscapes (Carol-Anne Eldridge, Bill Lattrell)
Historic Structures (Eric Grinnell, Pegge Howland, Margaret Freeman)
Oral Histories (Jan Carr, Nina Marshall)
- Heath residents are encouraged to assist the Commission in their work. To this end, the Commission will hold four informational meetings a year. The first such meeting was held on March 5, 2010, and featured a potluck dinner and presentations of all three projects. Participants signed up to assist each project according to their interest. Additional meetings of the Commission are held and publicized as needed.
- The Commission will hold workshops to introduce Heath residents to the tasks involved in exploring, documenting, and recording information in each area.
- All Commission materials will be made available for the public record in the Town Hall office. Although we have two small file cabinets for the purpose, restricted space in the office makes locating them difficult. The Town Coordinator consulted with the Select Board, and apparently two additional drawers in existing cabinets will be made available for Commission records. Two copies of the *Town of Heath Historic Properties Survey Plan 2007* have been placed in the Heath Library and can be checked out.

We are pleased to report that Mr. and Mrs. Walt Gleason have agreed to feature their farm as

a pilot for all three projects. In addition, we are: surveying the landscape features of Heath in order to divide the exploration of designated areas by abutting property owners to record their landscape features; working with the Heath Elementary School to research the old schoolhouses and to participate in collecting oral histories; developing techniques and materials needed for recording residents' stories of life in Heath; and continuing to gather relevant information on historic structures from the Registry of Deeds in Greenfield. We invite all Heath residents to join us in identifying and recording past and present experiences of working the land, conserving our buildings, and living in Heath.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Carr

Carol-Anne Eldridge

Margaret Freeman (Chair)

Eric Grinnell

Margaret E. Howland

Bill Lattrell

Nina Marshall