

Heath Historical Commission

Annual Report 2010-2011

In preparation for continuing the historic buildings survey, and starting our oral histories and heritage landscapes projects, Christine Luis-Schultz of Heath prepared for the Commission a “DIY (Do It Yourself) History Workshop Project” proposal as part of a graduate course she undertook at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in the summer of 2010. The proposal describes the three projects as outlined by the Commission, and includes a description of project elements (community engagement, potential stakeholders/partners, critical factors, workshop detail, implementation (pre-event communication, workshop preparation and execution, data framework, assessment), and products to be achieved. The proposal includes a list of heritage landscape types from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation Resources, and the names and contact information for societies, organizations, state and federal agencies as potential resources. Commission members reviewed the proposal during its Fall meeting, and plan to discuss it for adoption at our next meeting. Copies of the proposal will be available to anyone interested on request. One outstanding problem the Commission still has is the lack of space in the Town Hall offices for its records to be publicly accessible.

At its September meeting, the Commission also reviewed the proposal brought by Eileen Tongas on behalf of the Community Center for a 12' by 20' storage shed to be erected 5'-6' away from the building in the left side, at the back lined up with the Community Center. The Commission voted unanimously as follows: “The Heath Historical Commission makes a recommendation to town meeting that the size and location of the shed be approved but that we strongly recommend consideration of wood siding instead of vinyl siding.”

Still under discussion is the creation of a webpage and the purchase of signs for the Heath Historic District. The Commission and the Historical Society have also been contacted by MassBroadband 123 in preparation for possibly establishing fiber optic cable in Heath, avoiding

historic sites, still under review. Unfortunately, our December and January meetings had to be postponed due to various complicating factors involving holidays. The Commission will be seeking additional member(s) with the official resignation of Jan Carr from the Commission. Commission members wish to thank Jan for her stellar service to the Commission during her term of service.

Respectfully submitted,

Janis Carr

Carol-Anne Eldridge

Margaret Freeman (Chair)

Eric Grinnell

Margaret E. Howland

Bill Lattrell

Nina Marshall