

Heath Historical Commission

With a pared down membership (Kara Leistyna joining us to ensure our continuance), we will be seeking new membership in the forthcoming year.

This past year saw the successful installation of the Heath Historic District signs, thanks to Bill Lattrell who helped identify locations, and Mike Smith and his highway crew who installed them just in time for the Heath Fair.

Our major work this year saw the preparation of applications to include 55 and 59 South Road and the Fairgrounds into the Heath Historic District. With confirmation from the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) that the three properties are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, we are now working on providing the further information the MHC requested, including adding the Property adjacent to the Center Cemetery and Fairgrounds now owned by Peter Simpson and Thúy Lê.

One of the major tasks of the Commission is to help owners search their title deeds to record the history of buildings in Heath. To this end, two of us visited the Registry of Deeds in Greenfield to learn the procedures for searching.

In the Fall, Margaret Freeman represented the Commission at a Heath School meeting to discuss ways to involve the community more closely in interacting with school activities. To that end, we proposed, among other possibilities, that the school might develop a program with us to document and record the history of the nine schoolhouses in Heath and stories of those Heathans who attended them. We look forward to further discussions with the school on this project.

We still need to sort through our archival materials and make them accessible to the Heath community. We also plan to develop orientation materials for new members that will help provide continuity in our work and ease the transition into Commission work.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Freeman (Chair)
Kara Leistyna
Christine Luis-Schultz