

**Ashfield Historical Commission**  
**Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 24, 2011**  
**7:30 pm**

**Present:**

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin

**Minutes**

...of January 27, 2011 were approved.

**Antennas on Town Hall?**

Dave Dwyer did not respond to Steve's invitation to attend this meeting, so discussion of the possible cable internet antennas was inconclusive. The proposal now appears to be to attach five 4' high by 8" diameter antennas to the tower of Town Hall to provide internet service at 8 to 9 megabite per second for village center residents and businesses. Town Hall would receive internet service free in exchange for providing the structure on which to mount the antenna.

Although provided with drawings of the proposed antennas, Commission members want to view the actual antenna or at least a replica to scale to get a sense of scale and impact (both physical and visual) to the tower. In addition to the visual impact, members would like more information about how they would be attached, whether within the structure or on the outside, and whether the building's wiring would need to be upgraded to support the service. Would there be a power cost to the town?

Nancy said the Town Hall Committee, which next meets on March 8<sup>th</sup>, is waiting for a recommendation from the Historical Commission. The steeple is an iconic structure for Ashfield. She also wondered what the Massachusetts Historical Commission would say about the use of this historic structure for commercial use.

**DOT work in South Ashfield**

A letter from Jacobs Engineering Group, dated January 24, 2011, came to the Historical Commission notifying us that the Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be repairing the retaining wall along the South River on either side of Bullitt Road. Nancy reported the Conservation Commission also received notification. Since there was an historic mill located between the two areas to be repaired, and the project will be using federal funds, the Historical Commission is authorized to review the proposed project. The Commission asked Nancy to write a letter in response, noting the location of the former mill and requesting that any foundation stones that remain not be used in the construction.

**Summer Tours**

Discussion postponed until the next meeting.

**Next meeting**

Will be held Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize