

**ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPT. 1, 2011
7:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin,

MINUTES

...of July 28, 2011 were approved.

Discussion of the damage of Irene (following a special meeting of emergency services)

**TOURS: ASHFIELD HISTORY WRITTEN IN STONE
3RD MILL TOUR, AUGUST 13TH**

Just three people attended, in addition to Nancy Garvin, Steve Gougeon, and Stuart Harris: Don Robinson, Phil Pless, Claire Cournand. Joanne Ostrowski stayed with Norma Harris so Stuart could present his personal knowledge of the mill, its operation, and its deconstruction.

Some discussion about the lack of attendance relative to the other two tours included a lot of conflicts in August, the fact that the Ashfield News didn't run the article as promised, and possibly the abundance of poison ivy on the site. However, the very positive response of those who attended both the display at the Historical Society and the walk itself suggests that a repeat offering in the spring – before leaves are out but snow has left the site – could draw additional people. Nancy said the display could remain up at the Historical Society until May, when they would be preparing for their June opening with another display.

That might also be a good time to schedule the second half of Jim Vieira's stone wall and effigy tour. Steve will follow up with Jim, who hasn't responded to the initial inquiry about a follow-up tour.

It might be a good idea to put something in Ashfield News asking if there is interest.

STONE BRIDGE:

Nancy would like to include an article on the stone bridge in the next issue of the Historical Society's newsletter. Steve will submit one (and photos?) by the first week in October.

FUTURE IDEAS: HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Rather than schedule this for the winter (with unpredictable weather and roads), this might be held off until summer, working around other regional events such as the Franklin Land Trust's Farm and Garden tour. It will take time to identify potential homes, research their history, obtain permission, and determine a route.

Peter Corens mentioned his house was chosen to be in a book of historic homes (unsure of details). Other homes mentioned were the Doyles' on Steady Lane, Jaimie Young's on West Road. The question will be which have not been "improved" or modernized. Steve suggested asking Stuart, Arnold Jones, and other carpenters who do renovation work on old structures.

The other question is whether the town's insurance policy would cover private homes involved in the tour. Mary Fitzgibbon will look into this.

NEXT MEETING

Since we have no plans for the Fall Festival, the next regular meeting will be Thursday, October 27th, at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize