

ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THURSDAY, DEC. 1, 2011
7:30 PM

PRESENT:

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Tristan Romer, Gerard McGovern

MINUTES

...of Sept. 1, 2011 were approved.

Oct 27th meeting was cancelled due to the unexpected and unseasonable snow storm.

MILL SITES:

In response to a letter from Paul Sneeringer, US Corps of Engineers, Concord, MA, Nancy Garvin sent another registered letter with historical evidence of the old mill. We have requested they protect all remnant foundations when stabilizing the South River embankments along Route 116 in South Ashfield.

Nancy has been visiting other old mill sites with Alan Rice from the Historical Society Board of Trustees. Tom Leue's property has an interesting saw mill site with visible foundations that dates from 1836-1864. Their investigations pull together many of the old Ashfield families that ran mills. She continues to document mill sites, ownership and use.

The canal that comes down from present dam on Ashfield Lake goes under the former Reniff house on Main Street, and has undercut some of the foundations. The house was built on top of the canal in 1925. Nancy has found deeds that prove the town never owned the canal, but the town has done work on the canal which in part led to the current problem.

TOWN HALL WORK:

Offices have been rearranged. Broken glass will be replaced with vintage glass, and eight windows will get storms. It looks as if the Green Community grants will come through. The 200th anniversary of town hall is 2012 (or 2014). The Historical Commission agreed to play a role in celebrating this anniversary, once the major renovations have been done. The Town anniversary is 2015. Mollie will let Jack Sobon know that the money donated for his last tour went to storm windows for Town Hall.

HOME TOURS:

Discussion continued about what homes might be featured on tours of historic homes. Some possibilities include the Doyles, Stuart Harris, Ashfield Antiques, Mary Leue's (if not altered), Peter Corens, Arnold Jones, old Streeter home at Spruce Corner, Ken Miller's home at Ranney Corner, Susan and Richard Todd's, Mary Hall's.

Timing: wait until next summer rather than during the winter. We will bring to the next meeting an idea of how it might be structured:

- open house vs. tour
- brochure with history of ownership
- optimal number and timing
- how to promote (just Ashfield?)
- will we need insurance?
- what might homeowner concerns be?

Talk with a number of possible participant homeowners and ask them what their issues are. Nancy will ask Mary Fitzgibbon to look into the insurance question.

ANOTHER VIEIRA WALK?

Jim Vieira is interested in leading the other half of the walk (on Kate Kerivan's property) some time before the leaves come out. We tentatively scheduled Saturday afternoon, April 21st. Would need to go into the March issues of Ashfield News.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, January 26th, at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize