

ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 2012
7:30 PM

PRESENT:

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Tristan Romer,

MAIL

Franklin Regional Council of Governments announces work will begin shortly on a **Scenic Corridor Management Plan** for a 38.8-mile stretch of Route 116 from Deerfield to Adams. They are looking for representatives from the towns along the route to participate in a Byway Committee. Once the management plan is completed, towns will be eligible for grants in future years. As with Route 112, the Scenic Byway will include a mile-wide study area (half-mile each side of Rt.116). The first byway committee meeting will be held in Ashfield's Town Hall on Tuesday, February 7, 5:30-7:00 pm. Work will be done in collaboration with BRPC. Mollie will follow up, but will be out of town for that first meeting.

FY 2012 town budget: The proposed budget for Historical Commission is \$0. The Commission has an account with some funds from events; money that came in for the Town Hall tour with Jack Sobon went to the Town Hall fund.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation sent a copy of their latest bulletin "Terra Firma" which focuses on Rural Cemeteries; to be forwarded to Nancy Garvin.

MINUTES

...of Dec.1, 2011 were approved, with edits and additional information by Nancy Garvin.

JIM VIEIRA

...continues to draw large crowds with his talks on ancient stone walls and structures. The Commission plans a second walk with Jim on April 21st; Steve will follow up with Jim and submit a notice to the Ashfield News March issue. Commission decided not to post notices more widely, but to focus on Ashfield participants. Walk will be a continuation of the one held last summer, continuing across Bug Hill Road onto land owned by Kate Kerivan.

HOME TOURS:

The Commission continued to discuss possible historic (either original or renovated) homes for the tour. Discussion/questions:

- Will this be self-led (with brochure or write-up on each) or led by someone with knowledge of the unique aspects of each building?
- Do we need to limit the numbers (and thus require registration)?
- Brochure should include details about how they were built, the layout, what is original vs. what has been added, why the building is in that location, as well as historic ownership.
- What are the criteria for selection? Mark Zenick's former home on Tatro Road underwent some excellent reproduction work in the late 1970s; all new work, but with hand-planed timbers, etc. Would that qualify?
- Would there be a theme, or just selected randomly? Chronologically arranged?
- What if we focus on one particular aspect, such as historic Ashfield fireplaces? A "Hearth and Home" tour: history of shapes and use, types and patterns of brick, central chimney then moved to exterior wall, hiding places inside chimneys. Bring in someone who knows these old structures (Dickinson, Nye). Might include information about an old brickyard just north of Mohawk Regional.

Steve will follow up with this idea, which appealed to the members present. Narrowing the focus could help limit the scope and thus the time spent in each home.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 23, at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize