

ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2012
7:30 PM

PRESENT:

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Gerard McGovern

MINUTES

...of January 26, 2012 were approved. No meeting held February 23rd for lack of quorum.

ROUTE 116 SCENIC BYWAY

Historic district has already been written up from Route 112 byway; next meeting sometime in May. Apparently there were very few people from Ashfield at the initial Feb. 7th information session.

JIM VIEIRA

Steve needs to get something in Ashfield News this week about the Saturday, April 21st walk with Jim Vieira to look at old stone walls. Although he has garnered a lot of publicity, this is local history and involves going on site, there should be a good deal of interest. Meet at 1:00 pm at Kate Kerivan's home on Bug Hill Road. Need to check with Jim re. where the hike will start, and where to park.

HOME TOURS:

Although we still like the idea of focusing on stone fireplaces, there is little energy to pursue another tour at this time.

RECORDING OLD BUILDING SITES:

Nancy is still working on the history and location of Ashfield's old mill sites; she suggests we begin to photograph and document their location as well as those of sugar houses. Cynthia Cranston has a series of photos of sugar houses to give to Historical Society. Cellar holes are another topic; Peter Wiitanan has knowledge of some cellar holes, and began mapping them on GPS 15 years ago. Ron Coler owns three cellar holes.

WALKING TOUR

...of the village center also needs to be updated; Mollie has the electronic version. We could also create a walking tour of larger circuit of historic sites: Plain Cemetery, mill sites, stone bridge, etc.

FALL FESTIVAL IDEA:

Steve suggests we create photo boards of what we've recorded – mill sites, with walking tours of the town, sites to visit in Ashfield – with a little pamphlet or write-up on the various sites. This could be a self-service table at Fall Festival, next to the information booth. That would give us a deadline for updating the walking tour. Mill exhibit will continue at Historical Society along with Howes Brothers photos of mills (not all Ashfield).

NEXT MEETING

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize