

ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2013
7:30 PM

PRESENT:

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Gerard McGovern,
(Tristan Romer not in attendance.)

Meeting called to order 7:40 pm

MINUTES

...of August 30, 2012 accepted with minor amendments.
Since the September meeting did not have a quorum, no minutes were recorded.

FALL FESTIVAL

Steve updated foam board display, but weather was so bad it was never set up. Ready for next year!

DEMOLITION DELAY BYLAW

Unable to set up a meeting with Chris Skelly due to scheduling. No new information. Steve will contact him again, try to find an evening when he is willing to meet with us.

MILL SITE ON 116

Nancy reports: no work during the winter.

HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES

Many important anniversaries will be celebrated in the next two years:

- Belding Library will celebrate its centennial in 2014
- The Congregational Church celebrates its 250th (sesquicentennial) in 2013 (Saturday, July 13, 2013 is the date for their celebration)
- Town Hall will celebrate its bicentennial in 2014 (first service held 1814)
- And the town's sequibicentennial (250th) is in 2015

Nancy drafted a proposal for a History Fair and Conference, similar to that held in Colrain last October, with a very comprehensive list of possible speakers and events. What role should the Historical Commission play?

Some ideas included:

- Staking out the original footprint of the town hall where it originally sat on Norton Hill, and devise a way to show what the original interior floor plan was
- Coordinate some events with other on-going celebrations, such as Fall Festival, Sanderson Academy's reunions, etc
- Set up a series of speakers, as well as walking tours
- Definitely update the village center walking tour
- Request a line item from the Finance Committee (on February 6th) to cover initial outreach, printing, reproductions, photography, speakers fees, etc for the FY14 budget
- Consider what other grants might be needed (cf sources for Colrain celebration: Mary Lyon Foundation, MA Humanities, Pocumtuck Valley Museum, MA Cultural Council)
- Write a series of articles in Ashfield News

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 21, 2013.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize