

**ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2013**  
**7:30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Tristan Romer  
Gerard McGovern not present.

Meeting called to order 7:37 pm

**MINUTES**

...of February 21, 2013 accepted without amendments. The meeting in March was not held because of lack of quorum. Nancy moves to approve minutes, Steve seconds, unanimously approved.

**OPEN MEETING LAW**

Nancy Garvin handed out a checklist for posting, creating and approving meeting minutes; Steve has been observing these requirements.

**MEETING WITH CHRIS SKELLY, MHC**

Steve has a few possible dates to meet with Chris Skelly, Director of Local Government Programs, MA Historical Commission: 6/13, 20 & 27<sup>th</sup> are available. Commission suggested 27<sup>th</sup>, since that is our regular meeting. The intention is to hold a Q&A session focused on the parameters of a demolition delay bylaw. Nancy questioned whether the "Town Hall Use Policy" might require going to Select Board for permission to hold this meeting; Nancy will talk with Wayne Gardner. Steve will post this as regular, and invite any other interested boards from town to attend and bring questions. Those other boards should post it as well. Chris will extend the invitation to Historical Commissions from other towns.

**OSRP REVISIONS**

Mollie has been appointed to the Open Space Committee as representative of the Ashfield Historical Commission. Comments about the specific actions follow:

- *3A. Publishing map of historic sites:* Nancy created a map of mill sites for the Historical Society which could be included. There is a discrepancy on language of map; is there an existing map? Does it need updating?
- *3B. Interpretive materials:* The Historical Commission has been updating the information on Ashfield Plain tour; not yet published.
- Nancy has been writing information on Ashfield's trails and the sites these connect to. Ashfield Trails Committee has included this information in their trail guides.
- *B. 1.* Should be Ashfield Historical **Commission**, not Society. What does "formalize" mean? Inventories need to be updated.
- *B.2.* What is a "regional heritage landscape survey?" Does the Scenic Byways documentation count in identifying heritage landscapes? Both natural and cultural sites are included. The larger cemeteries are already in the inventory. Since the town common was acquired after the inventory was completed in mid-1980s, it probably isn't in the inventory; put this on our list of things to consider.
- *B.3.* What is meant by voluntary easements? How would this function? Is there a model for this? This seems vague; we need to check with Peter Flinker who was the primary author of the 2008 OSRP. Was that document an update based on an earlier OSRP? We need to protect old stone walls that document where old roads were; can we ask that people put easements on stone walls within their property so they never get destroyed?
- *B.4. demo delay bylaw:* First conversations will be a town-wide conversation with Chris Skelly, hopefully to be scheduled June 27, 2013.

Other questions:

- What about the barn inventory? What can we realistically do? What are our priorities?
- The only scenic road is Smith Road: are there others we should consider nominating for the list?
- What is current status of state highway design – Pilot Road project? Our rural roads deserve different maintenance/upgrade requirements than roads in more suburban and urban areas.
- Can we re-prioritize the list?
- What is the time frame for this update?
- Historic village centers are the old elementary school districts: Beldingville, South Ashfield (3), Ashfield Plain, Baptist Corner, Spruce Corner, Watson (New Boston), Chapel, Brier Hill, Wardville, Apple Valley, Northwest. There are geographical and topographical differences that distinguish these old school districts, and some architectural vernacular that each village shares – what is important to protect now?

Mollie will talk with Alan re our questions re. priorities, as well as what has changed from her print copy of the OSRP vs. the list he sent to the Commission.

### **HISTORIC ANNIVERSARIES**

- Revisit this at next meeting – perhaps set a meeting with the Town Hall Committee – possible elements for the celebration of Town Hall 200<sup>th</sup> – Nancy will contact Kate Stevens.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, May 23, 2013. Agenda: review OSRP actions, revisit the celebration for 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary town hall; plan a joint meeting with Town Hall Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize