

**ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
MEETING  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2011  
7:30 PM

**PRESENT:**

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Tristan Roman

**MINUTES**

...of December 2, 2010 were approved.

**TOWN HALL**

Nancy reported on the Town Hall Building Committee's study on energy and architectural upgrades for the building. Jim Barry of the MA Department of Energy spoke to the Committee about qualifying for the Greening Community program and its available grants. Town Meeting would need to approve a number of things, including adding a local requirement to the building code that addresses energy efficiency in new building, amending the Zoning Bylaw to provide by-right alternative energy generation by solar or wind, and setting criteria for fuel efficient town vehicles. The Committee will ask the Finance Committee for a debt exclusion of \$50,000 to obtain custom storm windows. Tristan said he'd be interested in working on that.

Because Town Meeting approval is required, a good deal of community education needs to happen. Mollie is willing to write about this in her column for the Shelburne Falls Independent, but perhaps an article in Ashfield News directed specifically to Ashfield voters is needed as well.

**FUTURE TOURS**

A series of three or four tours will be scheduled bimonthly in the summer, with the theme "Ashfield history written in stone." Suggested sites include the stone bridge off Smith Road, the former grist mill on the South River next to the Plain Cemetery (where the millstone was moved), and the Spruce Corner cemetery. This provides a good geographic distribution, to highlight the early town organization around school districts. At each tour, which would take no more than two hours, maps could be distributed that show where other grist mills were located in town, for example, or the early roadway system (for the bridge tour), or other old cemeteries. That way it would encourage individuals to check them out on their own. Tours would be held on alternate Saturdays, 1:00-3:00 pm. Suggested dates are July 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, and August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Steve will ask Jim Viera if he has any interest in being involved, perhaps leading a tour to an older stone site he has been exploring. Nancy will contact Bob Drinkwater about a tour of cemetery stones. Mollie will see if there is still a working grist mill in Sudbury or elsewhere so we can accurately describe how they worked. The cemetery tour could end with refreshments at the Spruce Corner schoolhouse.

**NEXT MEETING**

Will be held Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize