

ASHFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

PRESENT:

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Gerard McGovern, Tristan Romer

BARN TOUR

Praise and thanks all around for great collaboration and a successful tour. Nineteen people participated (including Commission members), and even though the tour lasted an hour longer than planned, people stayed throughout. Nancy's history of the buildings, including the moving of Town Hall, prompted Jack to provide a drawing of a capstan which was probably used to move the building. The event raised \$320 in donations, \$114 of which reimbursed Jack for the books on timber frame joinery. Mollie will speak with Jack about donating the balance to the Town Hall Restoration Fund.

FUTURE TOURS?

Since the tours have been so well received, and people seem very interested in learning about the history of Ashfield, the Commission will consider what might be arranged next spring and summer. Steve suggests a series of walks to select spots around town: the Northwest Cemetery, the stone bridge, the Spruce Corner schoolhouse, old mill sites, etc. We might hold them on four sequential Saturday afternoons, or perhaps once a month throughout summer. Members agreed to bring ideas to the next meeting, and Nancy is willing to research the history of chosen locales.

BARN PHOTOS

Gerard brought up the need to organize the existing photos of Ashfield barns in a logical system. Assessor's map and parcel numbers might be one way, but that can be cumbersome. Nancy suggested using the existing inventory system, which would need to be expanded to include those buildings that were not listed when the inventory was done twenty-plus years ago. Gerard will speak with Dave Allen at Roberge Associates, who had some ideas about how to list the sites.

HISTORIC INVENTORY

Nancy reported that the inventory has some significant gaps in it, and needs to be updated. She will add the research she did on the four barns and Town Hall to the existing inventories.

WIND POWER

Apparently there are at least five separate potential wind power companies talking with owners of ridgetop properties in Ashfield. There will be a joint Conservation Commission/ Select Board meeting Wednesday, November 10, at 8 pm to discuss steps toward establishing a windmill siting bylaw.

MINUTES

Minutes of 16 September 2010 were approved.

NEXT MEETING

Since the 4th Thursday of November is Thanksgiving, the next meeting of the Historical Commission will be Thursday, December 2, 2010, at which time the Commission will continue discussion of future tours to historic sites in Ashfield.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize

POSTING MINUTES AND INFORMATION ON THE ASHFIELD TOWN WEB SITE:

Charlie Heath is the town's webmaster. He can be contacted at webmaster@ashfield.org.

Individual members of the Historical Commission can create a log-in account by going to the town web site (www.ashfield.org) and click on "TOWN HALL" in the footer. That will bring in a log-in screen. Click on "REGISTER" and create a user name and password.

The account needs to be activated before you can log in; this happens by way of an email to you from the website – you then click on the url in the email message, and that activates the account. Then you can log into the administrative portal and enter the information you want posted.

Minutes and notices of meetings are preferred to be in .pdf form.

They have also asked that each Commission/Board send the following information to the webmaster for permanent entry onto the web site:

- Mission and duties of the Commission
- Contact information
- Meeting schedule
- And any announcements (such as tours, special events, etc)
- And then any resources or links (e.g., Mass Historical Commission) pertinent to the Commission's role.

[Mollie's notes from a training workshop in the summer.]