

Ashfield Historical Commission  
Meeting  
Thursday, September 16, 2010

**Present:**

Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Gerard McGovern, Tristan Romer

**Minutes**

Minutes of 26 August 2010 were approved, with correction to the date at the top.

**Barn Tour**

The entire meeting was devoted to planning Jack Sobon's "timber framing tour" scheduled for Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-3:00 pm.

Tour will include the Robinson barn on Norton Hill Road, the barn at the Inn at Norton Hill, the Nye barn (hopefully) on Main Street, the Pacosa/Cain barn on South Street, and end with a look at the structure of the Town Hall. Tour will be limited to 25 people, pre-registration required, \$20 will cover the tour plus a copy of Jack's book on timber frame joinery.

Additional books available for purchase will be the HCI booklet on barns by Bonnie Parsons (\$5) and Jack's new book on truss roof structures (at his cost of \$20).

**Steve** will set up a separate email address ([Ashfieldbarntour@gmail.com](mailto:Ashfieldbarntour@gmail.com)) where people can register; he will keep a list, let people know if they are on a waiting list, and remind registrants the week prior to the tour to let him know if they need to cancel so someone on the waiting list can sign up. Registrants should provide name, contact email & phone number, number in their party. Deadline to register is the prior weekend (Fall Festival). The reminder will give registrants logistics of where to meet.

**Mollie** will write a brief article for the Ashfield News (deadline by the 25<sup>th</sup>?) announcing the tour and registration information. She will also prepare a flyer for posting around town. We will somehow state that people need to be able to climb stairs, but will not announce where the tour is going. Mollie will contact all the people visited on the 8<sup>th</sup>, advise them whether or not we'd like to include their barn on the tour, and also order the HCI booklet, and let Jack know where to meet us. She'll also contact Nancy Dunne about the separate account established by the Historical Commission the last time we hosted a tour, and make sure that checks will not go into the general fund. She'll also ask Nancy D. whether Town Hall will be used by any other group that day.

**Gerard** will contact the Congregational Church (either Kate Stevens or Ted Murray) to find out if anything else is going on at the church that day, and whether we can use the parking lot for parking and gathering. He will speak with Gloria about clearing out the central aisle of her barn, and perhaps making the loft a little clearer as well. He also suggested making a video of the upper level of Town Hall prior to the tour (perhaps when additional floor boards are put in) for anyone not able or willing to climb the stairs, and for future reference.

**Tristan** has some tarps which could be used to cover any items barn owners would like to conceal, and will also get some "caution" tape to be put up in each barn to restrict the area where the public goes. This will be particularly important if we go up to the loft in the Pacosa barn, and especially on the upper level of the Town Hall. **He and Steve** agreed to hang the tape and reinforce the floor in Town Hall a day or two before the tour. **Tristan, Steve and Gerard** volunteered to help people clear a suitable space in their barn if they need help (particularly Inn at Norton Hill).

Since Wayne Gardner is the steward of Town Hall and is quite enthusiastic about this tour, we assume he will also provide access to the upper level on the day of the tour, as well as prior for making the area safe. **Nancy** will be asked if the Town Hall Committee should be consulted about this use, and certainly invited to participate in the tour.

On the day of the tour, Commission members will need to manage the group so nobody wanders off into private or unsafe areas. The discussion about liability generally focused on creating a clear limit to where people can go, and we assume people will use common sense.

#### **Next meeting**

We did not set a date for another meeting prior to the tour, but may need to have a brief update on plans. Next regularly scheduled meeting will be October 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Mollie Babize