

Ashfield Historical Commission
Meeting
Thursday, August 26, 2010

Present: Steve Gougeon, Mollie Babize, Nancy Garvin, Gerard McGovern

Minutes

Minutes of 24 June 2010 were approved.

Inquiry

The new owner of the Streeter House on Plainfield Road at Spruce Corner is looking for information on the history of the place. He was given the inventory form.

File photos

Nancy asked if there was a way to convert the original slides that are in the Historical Commission files to digital images; Gerard volunteered to do that.

Barn Tour & preliminary visits

Steve, Mollie, Tristan and Gerard looked at several village center barns on August 7th for possibly inclusion on the tour; attached notes (from Tristan and Mollie) summarize what they saw. Steve took photos, which will be sent with the notes to Jack Sobon for his review and see if he is interested. Even if there is not the great range in age represented in the 2007 tour, these barns can demonstrate a range of uses over time, as well as various techniques (both good and not so) of repair. Might be interesting to have historic photos of these barns available on the tour.

Since we missed the deadline to get an announcement in the September issue of the Ashfield News, the Commission decided to move the date from October 2nd to October 16th, if Jack is available. If not, perhaps we could find another knowledgeable local timber framer to lead a tour. Mollie will contact Jack.

Town Hall update

Nancy reported that Wayne Gardner has been named Town Hall Steward; the Town Hall Committee is meeting twice a month to review improvements to accessibility, energy use, etc.

Wind power

A bill to take control of wind turbine siting out of the hands of town governments is being considered at the state level; this would preempt even the restrictions of the Wetlands Protection Act, reports Nancy. How would turbine along Ashfield's ridge line affect the Ashfield Plain Historic District? The Charlemont Historical Commission was able to get the MA Historical Commission to comment on the turbine at Berkshire East, which resulted in a smaller and shorter turbine. Steve agreed to send a note to MHC about the proposed turbines in Ashfield.

Next meeting

Moved to September 16, 2010, 7:30 pm, to provide more time to promote the possible barn tour on October 16th.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm