

LANCASTER HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Annual Report for 2008

Michael Sczerzen chaired the Historical Commission in 2008. The members were Elizabeth Colley, William A. Kilbourn, David Knott, Joy Peach, Sally Rouleau, Michael Sczerzen, and Jean Watson. On September 23, 2008, William A. Kilbourn died suddenly and on September 30, 2008 David Knott (member since 1990) resigned to move to Michigan. Both these men will be missed. Heather Maurer Lennon was appointed on December 15, 2008

The Commission office is open every Tuesday to provide service to the public regarding historical research and genealogical information. Proceeds from research copy work are returned to the General Fund. Sally Rouleau is the liaison from the Historical Commission for the Town Green Buildings Advisory Committee. Elizabeth Colley is liaison to the Open Space and Recreation Committee.

September 11, 2008 was the One Hundredth anniversary of the Town Hall. On November 16, 2008, the public and town employees were invited to a celebration event, which was held in the town hall auditorium by the Historical Society and co-sponsored by the Historical Commission. Approximately fifty people attended and were treated to a Powerpoint® presentation, refreshments, and a chance to speak about their personal remembrances of town hall.

As part of the Master Plan recommendation, the Historical Commission is working on wording a demolition delay bylaw. The Historical Commission brought forth a warrant article for preservation of the Town Green. The article was defeated at the October 6th, 2008, Special Town Meeting.

The Lancaster Historical Commission was chosen in 2007 by the Massachusetts Historical Commission to receive services of a professional consultant who inventoried the Old Common and Middle Cemetery and provided the necessary paperwork in preparation for National Register status application. E-Forms and data sheets and maps of the Old Common and Middle Cemeteries were compiled and completed in 2008. This work is part of our goal to have all six historic cemeteries dating from 1878 back, recorded for nomination for National Register Status. The Lancaster Historical Commission in coordination with the Lancaster Department of Public Works continues to pursue grant money from the Massachusetts Historical Commission in preparation of the necessary requirements.

The Lancaster Historical Commission thanks the individuals and organizations that have adopted a town historic marker and have maintained the markers with attractive plantings during the four seasons of the year.

New roofing was installed on the Memorial School, the Prescott Community Building (Center School) and the Tercentenary Building. The Historical Commission recommended that the town apply for a Massachusetts Preservation Project Fund grant for the Prescott Building. Although the town was not selected for the Massachusetts Historical Commission's Round 14th grant, the grant Round 15 application has been announced, and the town will submit an application for

exterior work on the building. Much work has been done to clean out debris from these three buildings. The Historical Commission continues to encourage the town to restore and refurbish these three buildings which are listed on the Center Village National Registrar Advisory Committee.

The historic marker at Lane's Crossing at the intersection of Harvard Road and Rt. 117 (Seven Bridge Road) damaged by vandals still has not been replaced.

Significant changes to property:

- 100 South Meadow Road - House, c. 1775, – Being restored by the present property owners
- 648 Main Street, Brick Store, c. 1800, demolished and replaced by a new building
- Marble House property which had been located off Lunenburg Road, c. 1800, burned as fire training event.
- 126 Mill Street, c. 1800, demolished and replaced by new building
- 357 Sterling Road changed from a residence to a church property (Seventh-Day Adventist Conference)

Accessions:

- Framed artifact from the estate of Eve St. Ivanyi, daughter of Rev. Dr. St. Ivanyi.
- Memorabilia from the Current Topics Club