

2011 Annual Report – Lancaster Historical Commission

The members were: Michael Sczerzen, Chair, Liz Colley, Vice Chair, Heather Maurer Lennon, Joy Peach, Sally Rouleau, Mark Schryver, and Jean Watson and Associate Members: Catherine Chaisson and Joan Richards. A correction is noted in the Historical Commission 2010 Annual Report that Heather Maurer Lennon, whose name was omitted, was a member appointed in 2009.

The Commission members thank the following persons who have adopted a historic marker in town and taken responsibility for the area surrounding the markers:

- Jean and James Watson - Lover's Lane Old Elm Tree on Centerbridge Road
- Liz and Tom Colley - Ward Park water trough and intersection
- Cemetery Dept. - Water trough at North Village
- Michael Sczerzen and Joan Richards - Lane's Crossing Water Trough
- Joanne Foster and Alexandra Turner for the water trough at the intersection of Centerbridge Road, Neck Road, and Main Street

Anyone interested in adopting a marker, please contact the Historical Commission at LancasterHistoricalCommission@yahoo.com and telephone number 978-365-3909.

The Commission office is presently located at 94 Main Street (the Philbin Building) located in the back. Heather Lennon and Michael Sczerzen have coordinated the office layout, and Heather Maurer Lennon has been coordinating, organizing, and preparing materials for archiving. The dedication of some of the Historical Commission members and two senior tax abatement workers who are assisting with the task of reorganizing and inventorying the collection is much appreciated.

The Historical Commission continues to answer requests for genealogy and other research. Appointments can be scheduled for interested individuals to do onsite research. The office is also open most Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Many items pertaining to Lancaster are for sale.

The Commission voted approval to provide storage space to the Lancaster Historical Society for their collections. The Commission was informed that the Historical Society has voted to pay for two granite markers identifying Old the Common and Middle Cemeteries as a gift to the Town, and the completed markers should be placed near the entrances in early 2012.

The Historical Commission supported the efforts regarding:

- Prescott Building - The Historical Commission has met in 2011 with Menders, Torrey & Spencer, Inc. the architects selected for preparation of a feasibility study for the rehabilitation/reuse of the Prescott Building (Center School). Planning Director, Noreen Piazza, and her team continue work on and refurbish the exterior of this historical building with matching grant money. Architect/LHC member Mark Schryver was on the selection committee and provided valuable input.
- First Church of Christ Lancaster – The Commission is working with the church Standing Committee Chair, Frank Streeter and the Town Clock Winder, John Spencer, to pursue a plan to keep the Town Clock preserved and working well and the procedures recorded.

Changes in Town:

- The Dr. J. L.S. Thompson house c. 1849 at 2 Neck Road, presently owned by Dr. Norman Wendth family, was damaged in the fall by a fire, which started in the kitchen area.

Accessions: 2011 Accessions

The Commission received donations from: Thomas Burk, John Carboni, Marilyn Chambers, Elizabeth Colley, Phyllis Farnsworth, the Fitchburg Historical Society, Ernest Michaud, Sally Rouleau, Michael Sczerzen, Thomas Wintle, and Jean Watson. A complete listing of the donations can be obtained at the Historical Commission Office