

# *Town of Southwick*

## **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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## MINUTES NOVEMBER 5, 2007

### BUSINESS

1. The review of the October 15 minutes was tabled until the next meeting.
2. Bills: Preservation Mass membership \$75, Barn Preservation Conference registration \$50, Barbara reimbursement for mileage, tolls, parking for barn conference in Sandwich \$115, Benjamin Franklin Printing for CD copy of architectural plans of Southwick buildings \$121.50
3. Report of Barn Preservation Conference of Nov 3: Barbara attended the conference, which covered the following topics: Barn roof repairs – preservation and rehabilitation – do-it-yourself repairs – best materials for repairs, Maintenance plan – a condition assessment – elements of a condition assessment, Preserving cranberry screenhouses, History of New England barn construction, Barns and outbuildings in today's historic properties surveys. The Barn Task Force would like each community to inventory their barns so that there can be some idea of the extent of the preservation/rehabilitation job ahead for the committee. In addition, they are hoping that this survey will heighten the awareness of barns in our cultural landscape. Mentioned was a bill that has been introduced in the State Legislature to provide tax credit to barn owners for repairs to their barns. More information will be forthcoming as the conference and this presentation was cut short by storm Noel.
4. Photography project – Jamie Duncan: Barbara met with Jamie and went over the list Chris Skelly had given her. Notations were made where house numbers differed and additional sites were added to the list. The Commission wanted vistas taken so these areas were pointed out. The cultural map was loaned to Jamie so that she could get a better idea as to location of historic sites. The photos will be placed on MHC's website. The Commission is looking forward to the completion of this project and is pleased that MHC placed Southwick at the top of the list for this service.
5. Report of the progress of the Planning and Survey Grant project: Barbara and Karen met with Steve Bedford from F & H and went over the list that was generated with Chris Skelly. ( Karen and Barbara had spent two days driving around town visually checking the sites on the list. Sites were added to the list, mainly barns. The visual inspection is not complete as there are a few more streets to cover) About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the number of sites F & H will do were indicated for research – additional sites will be added in future meetings. Also covered were resources available for research and a place in Town Hall to work. Room 101 would be available however; advance notice would be needed to check to see if another board is using the room. In addition, Barbara would have to be notified to unlock files. Steve met with John Clegg and viewed the new mapping that will soon replace the old hand drawn maps. Steve said that they could format the historic sites information so that it can interact with the new maps as an overlay. Barbara will check into how far into the process provided by Cartographer, Inc the Town is investing and report to Steve so that he can develop the plan to achieve the final product accordingly. The Commission will have to provide a letter of introduction and do some publicity to

inform the community about the project and that Steve and Stacey will be traveling about town investigating historic sites over the next year.

6. Canal Pilot Study Update: PAL sent a request asking the Commission to notify the property owners on the Pilot Study site. Barbara went to the assessor's office and tracked down the four owners. She is in the process of notifying the owners and relaying this back to John Daley of PAL. He hopes to come out and map during the week of Oct 12.
7. Report on the Canal National Register Nomination Committee meeting held on November 7: The Committee reviewed the letter format and content that will be sent out to all State and federal legislators informing them of the informational forums. It was decided to include town and city officials and boards also. Dates in January were chosen and it was decided that there be three so that a morning, afternoon, and evening time be covered making it more convenient. Places for the forums were discussed and Forbes Library, Williston Academy, and the Westfield Athenaeum were decided on and will be looked into for availability. The format of the forums was also discussed. The next meeting of the committee will be December 18.
8. Benjamin Franklin Printing re Consolidated School plans and others: The disk with the plans has arrived.
9. October 15 Work Sessions: Crystal Brooks and Barbara worked on developing the list of historic sites for F & H. Robin and Rebecca worked on scanning the post card collection into the Past Perfect program.
10. Smart Growth meeting on November 8 at 8am at the Clarion Hotel in Northampton: Barbara and Karen will attend.
11. The Past Perfect Software bill for the Support Contract was turned over to Linda Carr as it is paid out of the computer account. The bill was for \$332. However, without the contract each support call would be billed at \$85 each.

## MAIL

1. From the National Trust for Historic Preservation the "Forum News" for Nov/Dec 2007
2. From Preservation Mass an invoice for Barn Conference registration and a membership renewal notice.
3. From Benjamin Franklin Printing the disk with the architectural plans of Southwick buildings
4. Economic Development Commission Min 9/5
5. Planning Board Min 10/2, 10/9, 10/16 Agenda 10/23, 10/30, 11/6
6. Conservation Commission Min 10/1 Agenda 11/5
7. From the Selectmen a Proclamation in support of Mass Recycles Paper Campaign 2007
8. E-Mail from Chris Skelly MHC announcing that MHC has hired Jamie Duncan to photograph historic resources in Western MA. She will start with Southwick.
9. From the American Association for State and Local history the newsletter "Dispatch" for 2007
10. Past Perfect Newsletter for November 2007
11. From Preservation Massachusetts an invitation to attend the presentation of the ten most endangered.
12. From Past Perfect Software the program update disk
13. From the Office of Transportation and Public Works an announcement of the MA Smart Growth/Smart Energy Conference to be held Dec. 7 in Worcester
14. From the Massachusetts Historical Commission an announcement of the Fiscal Year 2008 Survey and Planning Grant cycle
15. Lake Management Committee Min 10/11

16. From the Board of Selectmen a memo on how and whom to notify regarding local newspapers
17. From the Association for State and Local History the magazine History News for Summer 2007

Barbara MacEwan  
Chair, Historical Commission

Karen Brzezinski

Todd Shiveley