



Lynnfield Historical Commission Annual Report 2010

The Historical Commission has once again completed a very busy year, although the mantra for 2010 would be *change, change, change*.

The June resignation of respected board member Stephen Smith, to pursue his business career, left the Commission without a treasurer. The Commission decided to take advantage of the ability to gain three associate members and so enlisted Steven P. Smith, a retired education and marketing consultant, Roy Sorli, self-employed construction expert who manages the Commission's cemetery conservation projects, and Anthony Guerriero, a history professor at Salem State University and employee of MassPort. These talented people add a variety of new skills and ideas to the Commission.

The undertaking of a Spoken History project was begun with interviews of ten of Lynnfield's long time senior citizens residents conducted by Linda Gillon and Stephen Smith, filmed by Eric Hamlin. This theme based project will result in a series of short films to be viewed before Selectmen's meetings, town meetings, on cable access, in the classroom, etc., with copies available in the library, town hall, and Historical Centre. Each topical film will feature 10 or so interviewees describing their experiences in Lynnfield through the years.

Renovations to the Historical Centre included the repair of water damaged ceilings, wallpaper removal in two rooms with those and two more painted. New lighting and floor tiles were installed in the bathroom. The electrical system was updated from fuses to circuit breakers and outlets added where necessary to accommodate computers and technical equipment. The building finally went online and with the restoration of the telephone, is fully connected to town hall. The damaged front storm door was replaced and a programmable thermostat installed. Second hand purchases included a rolling file cabinet, two stationary file cabinets, bookcase, computer desk, and two adjustable desk chairs. A computer and external hard drive were purchased new. Two titles; *A Field Guide to American Homes* and *Saving Places That Matter* were added to the resource library.

The Commission and the Historical Society are very grateful to Selectman and Citizen Arthur Bourque for his donation of a security system for the Historical Centre. Selectman Bourque advocated loudly and continually to facilitate our entrance into the 21st century by bringing in

online capabilities and citizen Bourque acted to preserve our town's historic objects by assuring their security. Thanks also to Joe Bionjourno who both supported us with his technical expertise and worked directly with RMLD, Verizon, Selectman Bourque and Mr. Gustus to unite the Historical Centre with the other town buildings. Selectman MacKendrick was also integral to this project by lending both his voice and support to the cause. As the town liaison for the Historical Commission he is owed many thanks.

Linda Gillon, Steve Richard, and Nan Hockenbury attended the *Virtual Town Hall training* necessary to manipulate the Commissions webpage. The Commission gained the ability to link to interesting and informative sites and hope to link to the Lynnfield Historical Society in the near future.

The Historical Centre Sign located at the top of the 35 South Common driveway was created and given to us by Chris and Thalia Markarian. The granite post that proudly supports it was donated by the Old New Granite, courtesy of Biz and Mark Reed. We are grateful to these fine people for their support and belief both in the Commission and their town. The fire truck will not drive by trying to find the building again!

A comprehensive list of antique structures was compiled for the Open Space Committee. Consisting mainly of homes, features of the National Historic District are included such as the Meeting House, Town Common, and Cemeteries.

The Commission was visited by Jane Bandini of the Tree Committee with a presentation on implementation of the Scenic Roads Statute, a project which the Commission supports wholeheartedly.

Roy Sorli mentored prospective Eagle Scout Andrew Hall as he mapped, recorded, and photographed South Cemetery. Damage to the grounds, structures, and headstones was also noted. This cemetery is the next to receive a Master Plan in order to undergo much needed conservation and preservation by our professional consultant Jonathan Appel.

Planning meetings were held for the 2014 Celebration of the 300th year anniversary of the Meeting House and 200th year anniversary of the town of Lynnfield. Many volunteers are needed to plan, create, assist, and help as we formulate an eventful year-long party befitting and benefitting the lovely suburb north of Boston in which we live.