



Lynnfield Historical Commission

35 South Common

Lynnfield, MA 01940 781-334-9620 lhc@town.lynnfield.ma.us

Annual Report 2012

The Historical Commission continues to fulfill its mission as stated by the Massachusetts Historical Commission as “...to identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets of the Commonwealth”. Shelley Lynch has been providing invaluable and fascinating facts concerning two important Lynnfield families who significantly contributed to the town landscape of buildings and government you see now, the Bancroft’s and Danforth’s. The Commission is working to place the Bancroft-Danforth House on the National Register of Historic Places.

The first step in a community's preservation planning process is to identify, describe and locate buildings, structures, objects, areas, burial grounds, landscape features, and sites that are of historical, architectural, or archaeological importance to the community, the state, or the nation. A comprehensive inventory of a town's historical assets becomes part of a statewide inventory and enables MHC staff and local preservationists to make consistent and informed preservation decisions. MHC maintains a statewide survey at the reconnaissance level in order to formulate a broad context for evaluating the significance of historic and prehistoric properties. (The above paragraphs were taken from the MHC website.) Meghan Daly, a history student at Salem State University, has been hired to update Lynnfield’s inventory, a project last completed in 1976. We expect the project to continue for up to three years.

The Commission has lent its support to the Scenic Road Bylaw proposed by Jane Bandini as chair representing the Lynnfield Tree Committee. With the Lynnfield Conservation Commission and Lynnfield Planning Board as partners our Board is happy to present this bylaw as a warrant article for Town Meeting

The *Old Meeting House Hosta* created by *Perfect Perennials* in Peabody is available for purchase from board members Linda Gillon and Faith Honer-Coakley, and soon on the Commission town webpage. Sales of Old Meeting House Hosta contribute to the 2014 Tercentennial Celebration.

The Gravestone Conservation Project continues as professional conservationist Jonathan Appell Continues the conservation of Olde Burying Ground and then on to Old South Cemetery.

The Spoken History project is on hold temporarily due to damaged equipment owned by the town.

The Commission purchased a number of informative preservation and planning books. We welcome the public to use the resources of our growing library by making an appointment through the Commission’s town webpage.

Needed renovations to the Historical Centre include replacement of a front sill due to carpenter bees, replacement of the barn roof, exterior paint on the barn, and the service of an exterminator to eliminate mice, squirrels, and the carpenter bees. In order to achieve his Eagle Scout award, Kevin Sanford and his crew cleaned the barn for the Historical Society, a major project.

The Commission continues to hold memberships in the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and American Association for State and Local History .

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. Information concerning the planning meetings can be found on the Historical Society's website lynnfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

The continuing presence of historic properties in Massachusetts immeasurably enhances the quality of our lives; they help to establish our sense of place and to define the very character of our communities. The Commission needs your support as we foray into the new territory of saving these landmarks from decay and our historic properties from more willful destruction.

Please join us by signing up on our town webpage to receive more information about tools we can use to assure the legacy of our town, or if you would like to take a proactive role in leaving Lynnfield in better condition than we found it, both for our grandchildren and their grandchildren. If we can't improve it, let's not destroy it.

Respectfully submitted,

Nan Hockenbury, chair
Linda Gillon
Faith Honer-Coakley
Steven Richard