



Lynnfield Historical Commission
35 South Common
Lynnfield, MA 01940 781-334-9620 lhc@town.lynnfield.ma.us

Annual Report 2013

Three years of planning is culminating in the final preparations for the 2014 celebration of the 200th anniversary of the incorporation of our town on February 28th, 1814 and the 300th year of the 1714 Meeting House. Many volunteers have created an eventful year- long party befitting and benefitting the lovely suburb north of Boston in which we live. Information concerning the special events can be found on the Historical Society's website lynnfieldhistoricalsociety.org.

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, with the Commission, is working to place the Moses Richardson House (built before 1775) on the National Register of Historic Places. The Gravestone Conservation Project continues as professional conservationist Jonathan Appell concludes the conservation of Olde Burying Ground and turns to Old South Cemetery.

Forty-five new plaques were distributed to antique home owners for display on the exterior of their notable homes. These replace the damaged and missing markers last installed by the Historical Commission for the Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.

A gazebo for the town common is the planning stages. The Historical Society and Rotary have been working with Northeast Metropolitan Technical High School on the design and North Shore Technical High School who will be the builders. Completion is anticipated by the end of May, 2014.

Barns at 314 Salem Street and 241 Chestnut Street were reviewed under the Demolition Delay By-Law. The structure at 314 Salem Street was allowed a demolition permit.

Our resource library of preservation and planning books continues to grow. New titles include The Age of Barns, a beautifully illustrated informative volume by Eric Sloane, and Houses Without Names: Architectural Nomenclature and the Classification of America's Common Houses by Thomas C. Hubka. We welcome the public to use these publications by making an appointment through the Historical Commission's town webpage.

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

The 2013 Massachusetts Historic Preservation Conference was held in Lexington, hosted by the Lexington Historical Commission and Lexington Historical Society, and attended by the Lynnfield Historical Commission. Technical workshops, discussions of preservation challenges, and access to preservation resources were scheduled. The Conference was an initiative of the Massachusetts Preservation Coalition which works with preservation partners statewide.

The *Old Meeting House Hosta* created by *Perfect Perennials* in Peabody is available for purchase from board members Linda Gillon and Faith Honer-Coakley. More information is available on the Commission town webpage. Sales of the *Old Meeting House Hosta* help to defray the costs of the 2014 Tricentennial Celebration.

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 continued support as we fulfill the mission bestowed upon us by the Massachusetts Historical Commission, to save Lynnfield's important landmarks from decay and our historic properties from more willful destruction.

Please contact us by email at lhc@town.lynnfield.ma.us or 781-334-9620 to receive more information about tools we can use to assure the legacy of our town.

Respectfully submitted,

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