

Brookfield Historical Commission

APPROVED Meeting Minutes Thursday, October 14, 2010, 5:30 PM @ Elm Hill Farm

Members in Attendance: Ron Couture, Bill Puza, Peg Puza, Ann Mathieu, Lois O'Leary

- **Minutes of last meeting** were reviewed. Ann motioned to approve; Bill seconded. Vote = 5 yeas / 0 nays.
- **Discussed 350th Parade** – Chairman has been receiving photos of the parade taken by various citizens. He is compiling the photos and will ultimately save on a cd, with photographer's name. This will be a valuable record of the 350th celebration for future reference. The 350th Steering Committee is also working on making a copy of the parade video available to each of the participating towns for public record.
- **Pound Cleanup Project** – Bill has contacted BSA; no reply from them yet and is seeking other volunteers. Looking at Oct 17th as possible start date. Bill will speak to Highway Dept, maybe members of Conserv. Comm? Ann suggested NHS students from Tantasqua who need a community service project. Ann volunteered refreshments for work crew.
- **CSX Bridge Project** – Ron & Bill attended a mtg with DOT on October 6th. Information from that meeting was discussed. Railroad Bridge is a design/build project – not open to discussion. The River bridge is still in consideration stages, with about 40 people attending the public hearing. A response to the issues raised is being drafted.
- **Hovey Memorial** – The plaque and memorial are now on hold. The Hovey family is unsure as to where to they would like it place. They would prefer a location closer to the property once owned by the family (on the historic trail) rather than at a location within the Brookfield Cemetery.
- **Workshop on Trail Grants** – A workshop was attended and the grant application deadline is November 1st. Would like to seek funding for the Quabog-Old Brookfield Path, a historic walking trail through parts of Brookfield, West Brookfield & North Brookfield., highlighting significant locations of the 1st & 2nd settlements. Possibility of being able to utilize a portion of remaining proceeds from the 350th events.
- **Common Committee Update** – The committee will be meeting soon and turning over suggestions & ideas to landscape architect Martha Lyon. Discussed a possible idea for a Native American monument on the common, perhaps a sculpture. Also the Town is currently exploring the purchase of land parcel on Prouty St. that may ultimately provide a suitable location for the WRTA bus stop kiosk.
- **Elm Hill Meetings & Events** – Historical Commission would like to continue to hold meetings at Elm Hill Farm. That possibility was discussed with RRI, and the Historical Commission would like to host an annual event at Elm Hill to promote the location. Perhaps a farming-related event, an Agricultural Day, or maybe even something related to Elsie's famed career.
- **Individuals' Projects** – Discussed the need for committee members to select projects that are of interest to them and to adopt projects in order to try to get more done. Bill is taking on the Pound cleanup, Peg expressed interest in continuing with the slate stone restorations at the cemetery or possibly participating in the observance of the 150th Civil War Anniversary events planned by Worcester (rededication of Civil War Monument?), and Ann indicated a desire to explore possibility of hosting an Agricultural Fair maybe in the Spring of 2011.
- **New Business** – Discussed possibility of either getting a computer to catalog and keep Commission data in an organized manner, which would allow Commission members to share and access the database more easily. Lois mentioned the possibility of applying for a funding grant from the proceeds of the Apple Country Fair.
- **Set Meeting Dates** – Members agreed to continue to meet on 2nd Thursday of each month at Elm Hill Farm, unless a holiday conflict arises. Meeting time will be @ 5:30 PM; Chairman will post.