



## BROOKFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION

UNAPPROVED Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 10, 2011– 5:30 PM @ Elm Hill Farm

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

1. **Minutes of last meeting** were reviewed. Ann motioned to approve, Lois seconded. Vote = 5 years / 0 nays.
2. **Mail –/New correspondence** -- Student Volunteers for Cemetery Project. The Tantasqua students & teacher Nancy Sawyer were unable to attend. A meeting has been scheduled for Weds. March 16, 2011 @ 3 PM with Ron, Bill, Nancy Sawyer & the 2 students. Ron delivered materials & partial cemetery maps, which Bill will review prior to meeting.
3. **Historical Commission Event at Elm Hill Center** - Discussed outline of activities for the Ladies' Tea/ Garden Party to be held Sunday, June 5, 2011 at Elm Hill Farm. Because event is same day as Tantasqua graduation, school will have little involvement. Commission members are seeking distribution lists for mailing invitations - Ann: Women's Auxiliary of Harrington Hospital, Art Guild; Ron: contacting Amy Dugas for Quabog Historical Society members' addresses; OSV employees', contacts from Hitchcock Academy; Lois: names & addresses of History teachers in the school district, members of Brookfield Seniors (Barbara Clancy?) & Brookfield Librarians. Vendors sought (\$25 fee per booth); musical entertainment; (fiddler?); ENTERTAINMENT: Rita Parisi of Waterfall Productions will do a historic Tea Presentation Program (fee is \$310).
4. **Civil War Grand Army of the Republic - Ferdinand Dexter Post 38 Registry** - Peg has completed this project and turned over the completed materials. They include a brief history of the significance of the GAR, and a transcription of all the entries in the Brookfield Post's GAR registry, complete with index. Further research will include documentation of those Civil War veterans who are buried in the Brookfield Cemetery, and the cemetery mapping project hopes to locate & identify their graves. Peg will explore what information on these war veterans is available on Ancestry.com. The Commission plans to use GAR transcription for the rededication ceremony of the Civil War Monument, and possibly on the town's website, Historical Commission link. The Commission will be setting the transcription of the GAR Soldiers Memorial Book, transcribed by member Peg Puza, up on the web as part of an on-going effort to disseminate historical information about Brookfield.
5. **Civil War Program outline update** - Slated for July 9, 2011. Rededication of the Civil War monument; Commission would like to replicate the ceremony held in 1890, at which the Ferdinand Dexter GAR Registry was presented by Rev. C.P. Blanchard, and 160 Brookfield area Union war veterans assembled to commemorate the event. A newspaper article from the Brookfield times provides details about the ceremony itself.
6. **Spooner Door Knocker update** - Matt was absent; will wait for additional details at next meeting.
7. **Town Hall office & computer** - Cleanup & reorganization continues. The computer, monitor and printer are now up & running.
8. **Visit by National Register Circuit Rider from PreservationMass** - Chairman met with Michele Flourde-Barker on Feb. 25, 2011 to discuss numerous projects. A review of inventoried properties in Brookfield was made. One of the more important projects ought to be designation of the section of Boston Post Road as a Registered National Historic Road. Discussed the possibility of working toward passing a Community Preservation Act - adds ½% to property taxes, with matching funds from the State to complete some of the projects for historic neighborhoods such as the Common, Brookfield Cemetery, Elm Hill farm, Spooner well, Military Road, etc.
9. **Budget Review - As presented to Board of Selectmen:**
  - ❖ Conservation of historical documents - \$550.
  - ❖ Electronic media conversion - \$200.
  - ❖ Office supplies - \$150.
  - ❖ Postage - \$50
  - ❖ Research membership Ancestry.com - \$125
  - ❖ PreservationMass Conference - \$150
  - ❖ Office maintenance - replace rotting flooring - \$250 +Total for Historical Office & Commission expenses - \$1,475.

*Next meeting is Thursday, April 14, 2011 @ Elm Hill Farm*