

**Pepperell Historical Commission**  
Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 21, 2011  
Location: Town Hall Conference Room B

Members present: Ron Karr, Diane Cronin, Frank Kiluk, Dean Johnson

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. by Chairperson Diane Cronin.

The minutes from the meeting of September 19 were approved.

The PHC discussed the potential for commission involvement with fund raising in support of the living history project and others. Being unfamiliar with what activities the commission can do under the law, it was agreed that the chair should discuss this with the Town Administrator John Moaks.

Historical Commission Web Page Updates: 186 South Rd. has been added to the Vanishing Pepperell pages. The old jail in Railroad Square has been added to the Monuments section. Future updates may include the Liberty flag pole, the old silver mine at Heald Pond, and the Sartelle sawmill. The new "Archives" section now contains transcripts and images from the early town records regarding the Battle of Lexington, the 1753 District Act, the first flag (1774), and the Declaration of Independence.

Inventory of Historical Records: The PHC now has a file cabinet for its records. Interviews have been conducted with the Town Clerk and the Assessors Office. Mold is a threat to some of the old records with these offices, and mitigation by either volunteers or professionals should be considered. Treasurer Mike Hartnet will be interviewed next year.

The possibility of digitizing the PHC records was considered including maps and DAR material (it was agreed to check first with that group whether the material should be on our web site or theirs.)

Headstone Recording: Dean attended a workshop in Lowell on historic cemetery preservation. Compared to many other towns, our cemeteries are in good repair and are well maintained. Dean has continued his recording of graves.

Training and education: It was agreed that Diane should approach the Fin Com about budgeting a small amount of money each year to enable members to attend meetings and workshops.

Pepperell Living History: The Amos Mahoney interview is being reviewed and edited. Future sessions were discussed including interviews with members of the Garden Club.

Economic Development Advisory Committee: Eight persons have been appointed by the selectmen to this new committee, including Diane

Tourism: The commission discussed what role if any the commission could play in promoting historical Pepperell, including cooperating with the Covered Bridge Committee in printing brochures. Diane will investigate the possibility of listing historic sites in Pepperell on free tourism web sites.

Babin Dam: The commission agreed that the dam is of historical significance; if it is to be removed by the state, we hope that parts of the historic structure be preserved.

The next meeting will be held on January 16 (moved to January 30 because of conflict with holiday), at 7:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

Ron Karr  
Clerk