

Historical Commission Annual Report 2003

The upkeep and exhibitions of the Old North Schoolhouse at Conant Park are our main responsibilities, along with identifying and preserving the historical treasures of the town. School maintenance has included a new date plaque, repainting of the flagpole, porch and steps. The school house was open to the public from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays from Memorial Day to Labor Day as well as on July 4th and on Old Home Days weekend during 2003. We plan to follow that schedule again this coming summer. In May the second grade students from the Norris School got first hand experience of school life in the 1930's. (What? No TV?)

We are waiting to hear from the state regarding the next step to have the canal listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

We provided a plaque and replica of the Boston Post Gold Cane to Madeline Yamilkoski, now the town's oldest resident following the death of Evelyn Parsons.

The Commission reviewed the historical implications of several proposed and pending construction projects, including the Route 10 bridge at the Mill Pond, the Red Brook Estates and cell towers. In addition, we evaluated the historical and cultural significance of the Larrabee School Building.

Once again Historic Deerfield passes are available at the Edwards Library and have donated historical related books and pamphlets to the library. We also joined the Bay State Historical League. Several members have attended workshops and conferences on historic themes.

The Commission currently is lacking one member as a result of the resignation of Sue Kozub. Due to her many other commitments, Sue felt that she could no longer continue to devote the amount of time to the Commission that she felt was necessary. Sue served many years on the Commission, some as president, and was always the one who kept the Commission on track and effective. She also served as our representative to the Community Preservation Committee. I am sure that Sue and our Commission will continue to work for ongoing cooperation between the Southampton Historical Society and the Commission for the mutual benefit of both and of the town. I would like to take this opportunity to thank not only Sue but also the entire committee.

Ongoing plans include compiling and prioritizing possible projects for the consideration of the Community Preservation Committee. We are also starting to update the town inventory of historic houses, buildings, records and places which was last done thirty years ago.

Richard Ahart, Chair

Richard Frary, Vice-Chair

Robert Emerson, Comptroller, Rep. To Community Preservation

Nancy Rice, Secretary

Marvin Swartz

Greg Tuleja

