



TOWN OF GROTON
Historical Commission
173 Main Street Town Hall
Groton, Massachusetts 01450

MEETING MINUTES – September 21, 2011

Present: Al Collins, Shirley Wishart, Mike Roberts & George Wheatley
Absent: Mike Danti & Bob DeGroot
Guests: Norma Gavin

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

- 1.. Agricultural Survey Project – update and discussion:
 - M. Roberts reported that Phase 3 is near complete with anticipation of the project completion by years end. Project is on track with final report in the works.
 - A farmers resource manual is complete with the intent of every Groton farmer to receive either a hard copy or electronic copy.
 - Agricultural display is still at Williams Barn but may go to Freedom’s Way for display and then to other to be identified locations.
 - Mike Roberts has volunteered to be caretaker of the display.
2. Groton Fest:
 - Mike Roberts will talk with John Ott to determine if we will have presence at Groton Fest with the Agricultural display.
3. Groton Inn Fire – update and discussion:
 - Al Collins updated the Commission on the retrieval of some historic pieces of the Inn. The Owner allowed removal under the leadership of the fire department who deemed areas safe enough to access. Retrieved items are being stored at Sanford Johnson’s house until the Boutwell House renovations are completed at which time they will be given to the Groton Historical Society.
 - Problems identified with the process of town involvement after the fire were a lack of consistent communication between committees and the owner, to many people talking with the owner and a lack of a disaster management plan for historic resources.
4. Squannacook Hall re-use – George Wheatley update:
 - George and All have had 2 meetings at the hall to determine how much work might be needed to use the facility as a repository for historic Groton collections
 - Al estimates the hall could be usable with certain enhancements for about \$350,00 to \$400,000.
 - The plan is to keep meeting with interested parties to determine the practicality of use.
5. Groton Historic Resource Disaster Plan – discussion:
 - The Commission will work in conjunction with the HDC to draft an outline proposal to be presented to the Selectmen.

6. HistComm files and Archive storage discussion:
 - We need a file cabinet for storage of documents that can be referenced at our meetings.
 - Town is investigating the use of the Town Hall attic for file storage.
 - Archives Committee needs to inventory items that need to be archived.
 - An off site location may be best for Archived items
 - Norma Garvin volunteered to inquire at Town Hall re: attic storage.
 - Mike Roberts will check with CPC re: purchasing file cabinets.

7. Open Session for topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting:
 - Discussion was had re: a Porter mural that used to be in 134 Main St. Al Collins will e-mail Bob France to ask for his cooperation in identifying and preserving the mural if it still exists.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Collins , Chair