

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The purpose of the Historical Commission is to plan and implement programs for identifying, evaluating and protecting our Town's historic resources. We work with other Town boards and commissions to achieve our goals. We are responsible for commenting on environmental issues at the local level and are mandated to alert State and Federal agencies to local preservation issues.

This year marked the end of the ADOPT-A-PLOT program. Over the past five years over 900 headstones have been cleaned and over 275 headstones have been reset and/or repaired in Old Cemetery. Using Community Preservation Act funds, the largest and most complex repairs and resets were done by professional stone conservator Jonathan Appell. We would like to thank all the residents who contributed their time and/or money to this worthwhile project.

We continue to work on a Town wide survey of all of our historic buildings and sites. We have photographed just about all of our historic houses, barns and other outbuildings along with a few historic archaeological sites. When this project is complete, residents and researchers will be able to access information on historic buildings in Town both in print and on CD at various sites.

Bill Meuse, retired NPS historian and a Commission volunteer, completed an in depth report on Mt. Vision Farm on North Road. Mt. Vision was an experimental farm during much of its history and turned out to be far more significant agriculturally than we had thought. The historic farmhouse is scheduled for demolition. We are hoping it can be moved rather than destroyed. Our efforts to find a buyer for the structure have been unsuccessful. If you are interested in it let us know.

Our concerns are not just old buildings and archeological sites. We are also concerned with preserving what little remains of our rural heritage through preservation of farmlands, scenic roads, conservation and smart growth.

Respectfully submitted,

Connie Chapin Witt, Chairman
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