

October 20, 2011

Lee Heritage Commission

Present were Preston Samuel, Pat Jenkins, Laurel Cox, Dave Meeker, Laura Gund and visitor, Denis Hambucken. Denis has written six books about the Revolutionary War, including books on woodworking, colonial crafts, tin-smithing, floor clothes, as well as books on the Revolutionary War soldier and the Civil War soldier.

Minutes approved with corrections.

Demolition Ordinance: This needs to be discussed, not only at our meetings but with the Selectmen. If a building were slated for demolition, an ordinance would provide at least an opportunity for documentation. Articles can go in the Town Crier regarding this ordinance.

History of Lee: Denis was curious as to why we were working on the history and what our plans were for the end result. We explained the history of this project which has been on-going for some time. Preston talked about our historic sign project, having an explanation available for each site, which might include farms as well as historic sites. Denis and Preston discussed using a web site with photographs of historic Lee homes, historic sites, etc. The web site could include a map of the town which would show the locations of these sites, and could also include family photos and stories.

Budget: The Heritage Commission has to appear before the Advisory Budget Committee on November 15th. We talked about our budget for doing the Lee history and will have to prepare a final one for Pat to take to the Budget committee.

Vault: The vault is apparently now ready for our materials. We must first of all list what we have stored in various filing cabinets, vaults, etc. We will start on November 2nd and make a listing of everything that needs to be in safe keeping. Once again, we would like to see the vault back in the Hobo Shed.

Signs: Preston has been busy working on sign sites. Possibles: Jennison's Mill, Old Mill Road (commented on the reclamation of the gravel pit that is on-going), Lee Hill, Wadleigh's Falls with mill sites, South Lee Station/Plummer Store, farming/ Lee Hook Road. Talked about New Town Plains. How did New Town Plains get its name?

Indians: Preston has also been doing some research on Indians in the area. In 1676 Indians burned lumber at Wadleigh's Falls. At Wheelwright Pond they fought all day. Not many Indians in Lee.

Burleigh-DeMeritt Homestead: We will be in touch with Helen Clark about the book she wrote while at UNH. This situation with the University has been ongoing since 2006 when UNH stated they had no money for the Burleigh-DeMeritt House. A recent e-mail from Doug Bencks indicates that they are ready to get rid of the house. Discussed whether they have a statutory obligation to maintain the old house. We also discussed the Glidden Trust. We will contact the Board of Selectmen and ask their advice and assistance. Preston suggests the letter should acknowledge present times, but also that they need to abide by their obligations.

Barns: Nothing new.

Hobo Shed: The roof still needs tar.

Oral Histories: Nothing new at this point. Laura will check with Eric Gibson to determine whether he has contacted Harold Ward. Joel Miller may be interested in doing some oral histories.

Next meeting: November 17, 2011.

Minutes submitted by Laura Gund.