

**August 6, 2015**  
**Historical Commission Meeting (Approved)**

The Upton Historical Commission met at 12:06 pm on August 6, 2015 at 2 Grove St. In attendance were Chairperson, Cathy Taylor; Vice-chair, Joyce Heywood; plus members Howie Glassman, and George Patterson. Absent members were Jim Brochu, Donna Desjardins, and Russ Wood.

**Tour of building at 2 Grove St:** The Commission met for a site visit of the building at 2 Grove St, which dates back to circa 1833.

This historic property, known to be the oldest, still standing, commercial property in town was recently purchased by the town. The town has filled out a demolition request with the stated purpose of creating more parking spaces for Town Hall employees and overflow parking for the town hall.

Cathy brought along the information that the Commission has on file for the site. The information was compiled for the National Register district application and this property was listed on the application as a Contributing Building. National Register status was recently approved.

As stated previously, the building dates to about 1833 and is currently divided into 3 separate units: Unit 1A, 2A, and 3A. Unit 2A is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, while the other two are on ground level. The provided keys to the building did not allow entrance into units 1A and 3A. Therefore, we were only able to tour the upstairs (2A), which until quite recently was rented as an apartment.

Unit 2A consists of 4 rooms, including a kitchen and bath. The apartment is dated and some sagging of the floors was noted, which would seem normal for a building of this age. Pictures were taken of the outside of the building and the inside of the apartment.

Commission members discussed the building and the information compiled by the National Register application in order to decide if we consider the building to be significant. Members noted that the building is thought to have been used as a general store that sold straw, thus having ties to the beginnings of the town's well-known hat industry. Also noted, was the fact that a Temperance movement group was known to have held meetings at the site. All present noted that it would be a shame to lose our oldest commercial building.

Following the discussion, a motion was made by George, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howie, to consider the building significant. The motion carried unanimously.

The next step will be to hold a public hearing for preferential preference regarding the property. There was a motion by Howie, with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by George to create and publish 2 separate notices regarding 2 Grove St and also 3 Centennial Court (which was toured on July 23, 2015 and found to be significant). The motion passed unanimously. Cathy agreed to write the notices.

The visit being completed, the meeting adjourned at 1 pm.

**Joyce Heywood, Vice-Chair**