



PETERSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION and PETERSHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

3 South Main Street • Petersham, Massachusetts 01366 • 978-724-3353 tel • 978-724-3501 fax

Annual Report • July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014

The Petersham Historic District Commission & Historical Commission met monthly throughout the year at Petersham Memorial Library.

The Commission reviewed general questions about solar panels in the District, work at the Unitarian Church, projects at The Country Store, and a proposed concrete dome at the Town Hall/Town Office well head. An Application was received and a Public Hearing was held for one project at the Store – installation of an exterior cook vent. The project was approved with conditions. An Application was received and a Public Hearing was held for a roof renovation project at Petersham Memorial Library. The project was approved.

Primarily through the dedicated and detailed effort of HDC member Chris Mandel, the Commission produced full applications for Petersham's two historic one-room schoolhouses on East Street, dated 1846 and 1849 respectively, to be submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the National Historic Register seeking inclusion on the National Register. These applications received the support of the Petersham Selectboard, Petersham Historical Society, and the town's State legislators. From HDC member and Cemetery Commission co-chair Lynn Shaw, the HDC heard of proposed work to repair the failing 1889 Hearse House in the Center Cemetery. The HDC supported this effort. Nancy Allen provided updates on the Route 122 Scenic Byway project and proposed installation of one visitors' kiosk in each town. Site visits for both the Hearse House and the kiosk locations were held.

The Commission began preliminary review work of our By-laws, one of the lengthiest sections of the Town's By-laws. With the thanks of fellow members, member Lynn Shaw offered to attempt to begin the project and bring it forward for review. This will be a time consuming process, but all agreed it is necessary for clarification and updating.

The HDC welcomes attendance at our meetings which are held under the Town's Historic District Commission Bylaw Article XII.

The Commission is grateful to Petersham residents and fellow town officials for providing their support for preservation of Petersham's history.

~ Respectfully submitted, *Commission Members, July 2013–June 2014:*

Nancy Allen, *Chair*; Robert Clark, *Vice Chair*;
Christine Mandel, *Clerk*; Lynn Shaw, member

Meeting Agendas, Minutes, and other materials can be found at the Historic District Commission link on the town web site at www.mytowngovernment.org/01366. Our thanks to the web managers for providing this service and to the Memorial Library for providing meeting space.

ABOUT THE PETERSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT

Through the diligent hard work of town residents and the commitment of Petersham voters, the Petersham Historic District was established in 1967 as one of the earliest in the Commonwealth. Today, there are more than 215 Districts in 110 towns and cities across the Massachusetts. Since the 1930s, over 2,300 Historic Districts have been established across the United States and the number keeps growing as towns discover and appreciate the “quality of community” benefits brought about by preservation.