



PETERSHAM HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
and PETERSHAM HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Annual Report, July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

The Petersham Historic District Commission and Historic Commission had a productive year. The Commission met monthly through the year at Petersham Memorial Library.

The Commission compiled the HDC Bylaws and a cover letter which was sent to all District property owners to ensure that owners are aware of the Bylaws and know to contact the HDC if they are considering a project and that they are always welcome to ask questions and seek advice.

During the year the HDC reviewed possible projects at the White Pillars Building and Country Store; discussed applying for National Register of Historic Places status for the 1849 Second East Street Schoolhouse (District 5 Schoolhouse) owned by the Petersham Historical Society; explained the HDC purview and District map to the Selectboard; reviewed the demolition grant status of the Nichewaug Inn & Academy; prepared and delivered information to a consulting engineer and Massachusetts Historical Commission per a Section 108 request of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding a proposed cellular tower; continued efforts on a new updated HDC Properties Book; and reviewed and signed various business permits.

In June 2012, the Commission met and worked with Mike Nolan of G4S Technology to develop a plan for underground siting of new broadband cabling being proposed for the town center. This effort created a suitable alternative to hanging exposed wires on utility poles around the Common. The project began in late Fall 2012 and is still underway. The HDC was appreciative of the response of Mr. Nolan and G4S Technology to the requests of the Commission and the town.

Also in June 2012, some HDC members participated in the Gravestone Workshop organized by the Petersham Cemetery Commission. It was an enjoyable and productive workshop.

Commission Members, 2011–2012:

Nancy Allen, Chair; Robert Clark, Vice Chair; Christine Mandel, Clerk;
Peter George, Lynn Shaw, Polly Pillsbury, members

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 and 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.