

REPORT OF THE 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 review issues at the local level and are mandated to alert state and federal agencies to local preservation issues.

This year we continue our work on a no match grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. This grant has made possible photographing and inventorying of over 500 properties of historic and/or architectural interest in town. When complete, the photos, along with a brief description of each property, will be available in a variety of formats for use by residents and scholars.

The ADOPT-A-PLOT program continued in Old Cemetery this year with the professional conservation of thirteen monuments and the only statue in Old Cemetery. This work was paid for with Community Preservation Act funds.

We continue to respond to requests for information on Hampden's buildings and their occupants. The requests -numbering from 20 to 50 a year- are usually answered by our dedicated volunteer Bill Meuse, a retired National Park Service historian.

We are becoming alarmed at the number of old and some fairly new homes that are being torn down to build larger homes on their lots.

This year, we welcomed Sally Bryce to the Commission as a member.

Connie Witt serves on the Community Preservation Committee and the Smart Growth By-Laws Committee as the representative of the Historical Commission. The Smart Growth By-Laws Committee is a sub-committee of the Planning Board.

Our concerns are not just old buildings and archaeological 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
Sally Bryce
Chrissy Cesan
Melissa Lail-Trecker