

## **Fracestown Heritage Commission**

Minutes of meeting January 14, 2006

Present at the meeting: Diane Curran, Chair; Silas Little, Peter Bixby, Veda O'Neill, Ann Stewart, Secretary.  
Absent: Mary Lindstrom. Resigned: Lisa Phillips

Secretary's report for January meeting accepted as read.

It is agreed that there is no real need to replace the vacancy left by Lisa Phillips' resignation.

Plans for the April workshop include a representative from the State Historic Resources Commission who will speak. A projector will be borrowed from the grade school.

In accordance with the HC continuing policy to meet with boards and organizations relevant to our responsibilities, Greg Neilly, was present representing the Fracestown Land Trust. He outlined the origin of the Trust, and updated on their activities. Presently, FLT has a Purchase and Sale Agreement on a 130-acre parcel. They continue to add good size parcels using grants from foundations, matching grants and donations. FLT is now cooperating with the Conservation Commission and the Piscataguog Waters Association. Presently they are involved in the Headwaters Campaign and over 1000 acres comprising the headwaters of Brennan Brook, Rand Brook and Cole Brook.

Peter Bixby, HC liaison to FLT, spoke of his recent hike in the Town Forest and of the difficult walking he had experienced due, he felt, to over-cutting and logging activities. Greg Neilly noted that "logging pays the bills and enables purchase of more land", all in the context of good wildlife management and habitats. The lengthy conversation clearly illustrated the age-old need to balance recreational interests and logging interests.

Despite the above inherent differences, there is agreement that our forests represent part of our heritage and should be "managed, recognized, and protected" as a historic and cultural resource. Toward this end, should the HC develop covenants to protect and preserve our forest heritage? Should the HC propose an Historic Easement? Is there such a thing? An Heritage Easement? Silas Little will bring to the next meeting examples of Historic Easement wording. Peter Bixby will draft a preservation covenant.

Ben Watson, Chair of the Planning Board, requested the HC to discuss and recommend as to what needs to be in the Master Plan concerning Historic Assets". Mary Lindstrom and Ann Stewart will work on this issue.

The next meeting will be February 11<sup>th</sup> in the lower level of the Town Offices at 9AM. Betsy Hardwick, chair of the Conservation Commission, has been asked to be present to represent that commission. Also, the meeting's agenda will include the HC budget for Town Meeting. The meeting is open to the public, as are all town board meetings. For more information call any of the members: Diane Curran 547-6418, Mary Lindstrom 547-3349, Silas Little 547-8384, Peter Bixby 547-2197, Veda O'Neill 547-8593, Ann Stewart 547-6635.