

Historical Commission Annual Report 2018

Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40 Section 8D states a city or town may establish a local historical commission for the preservation, protection and development of the historic or archeological assets of such city or town.

The FY 2019 Annual Town Meeting and the Community Preservation Committee approved \$15,000 to be secured from the Community Preservation Fund under Historical Resources for exterior storm windows to be installed on the Center Office building. Installation is expected in the spring of 2019.

The Historic Assets Survey conducted by Pioneer Valley Planning Commission in 2016 – 2017 is available on the Town webpage under the Historical Commission. Five Area (Form A) forms for a total of 33 buildings and 69 individual Building (Form B) forms are available for public view.

The Historic Assets Survey conducted by Professional Archeological Laboratories (PAL) conducted from 2017 -2018 is also complete and is expected to be online soon. The PAL survey includes 1 Park & Landscape (Form H) form, 3 Area (Form A) forms, and individual Building (Form B) forms for a total of 134 properties and structures. Funding for the PAL survey was provided by the Community Preservation Fund under Historical Resources for \$10,000 and a matching grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission.

We encourage everyone to visit the Town website to see if your home is on one of the surveys. The forms include a photograph of the property taken from the street, its location, the style, the builder (if known), material used for the exterior, and condition. There is an architectural description, historical narrative, and a list of resources. Generally the ownership information extends to the 1960s but some may go later.

The Sturbridge Historical Commission continues to strive to highlight historic assets in Sturbridge and to advocate for their preservation. Historic preservation contributes to our community's economy and to our sense of place.

The Sturbridge Historical Commission is a five-member board currently looking for one more "history advocate" and any number of non-voting associate members. Please contact a current member or the Town Administrator if you are interested in joining our efforts.

Finally, we wish to thank all the people who help the Historical Commission advocate for preservation and who support our mission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara A. Search, Chair (2021)
Richard Volpe, Vice Chair (2021)
Cathy Zavistoski, Clerk (2019)
Bailey Applegate (2019)