

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2022

The year 2022 was a busy one for the Historical Committee spending the majority of our time working on a state Historical Preservation Grant for Sturbridge. For the year 2022 we worked with a 3 person board but happy to say – Walter Hersee has joined us in January 2023.

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 said City or town.

- 1. Historical Preservation Grant** – as stated above the Commission was able to obtain a grant from the state for \$15,000 plus matching funds the CPC to total \$35,000. Due to COVID plus the backlog of work the state had in this category, we were able to get an extension until September 2023. During 2022 we were able to contract a historical preservation consultant to help us with our goal. The program was divided into three phases- The second phase was sending out a survey to all town residents – to get their input on what should be included in a Historical Preservation Plans. A meeting was then held on November 14 where the survey data was presented displaying what residents felt was important but also what residents felt were immediate concerns with saving our Historical buildings etc. Currently we are waiting for the consultant to come back with a complete deck which includes their proposals and input for the board to review and accept or change. We are hoping to have the project completed by June 2023.
- 2. The Lafayette Trail Marker Program** – the town was approached for this project in late 2021 to have a trail marker placed- where Lafayette entered Sturbridge on September 24, 1824. In 2022 the town approved the placement of the marker on the town common. We are currently waiting for the foundry to deliver the marker. . Once completed we will plan an event in 2024 that will tie in all towns in Massachusetts that Lafayette visited that summer.
- 3.** During 2022 we continue to receive various requests from the state concerning projects that may impact Native American burial grounds in Sturbridge.

The Sturbridge Historical Commission continues to strive to highlight historical assets in Sturbridge and to advocate to their preservation. Historical preservation contributes to our community’s economy and to our sense of place. We appreciate all the help and input we have received from the town to help us complete our mission.

Respectfully submitted,
HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Richard I. Volpe Chair
Charles Blanchard Vice Chair
Barbara A. Search
Walter Hersee