

HISTORICAL COMMISSION 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2023 was a busy one for the Historical Commission spending the majority of our time implementing the Preservation Grant the Town was awarded. For the year we had a 4 person board but happy to say - Bill Barnsley has joined our group - giving us a full board for the first time in years.

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 Historical or Archeological assets of city or town.

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION GRANT - as stated above the commission was able to obtain a grant from the state for \$15,000 plus matching funds from CPC to total \$35,000. With these funds we did the following:

- Contracted PAL consultants to prepare an action-oriented community-wide historical preservation plan. The purpose of preparing the plan was to provide a community vision for preservation and guidance regarding actions that should be taken to support Historic Preservation.
- We reviewed ongoing and anticipated issues and challenges
- Historic preservation issues and challenges
- Came up with recommendations for goals and polices
- New inventory surveys/ near term projects, 1-3 years/long term projects 3-5 years

As you can see from the above the commission will have many projects this year and hopefully growing the Towns awareness of just how much historic history is in Sturbridge.

THE LAFAYETTE TRAIL MAKER PROGRAM - This was a program that stated last and hopefully everyone has seen the sign on the common.

The official celebration of Lafayette's visit will be September 24, 2024. We will be working with OSV and other towns to make this a great day for our towns people.

During 2023 we continue to receive various requests for 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 L. Volpe - Chair

Charles Blanchard - Vice Chair

Barbara A. Search

Walter Hersee

Bill Barnsley