

WILTON HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR OCT. 28, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. at the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library. Present were Stanley Young, Michael Dell'Orto, David Potter, Nancy Clark, and guest Franklin Horseley.

The September minutes were read and accepted. The treasurer reported we have no money left. Stanley said he planned to submit the same budget request from previous years to the town. We do not, at present, have any project in view to justify requesting a larger sum.

Franklin Horseley said that he is interested in researching the family history of Uriah Smith, the noted Seventh Day Adventist pioneer born in West Wilton. In particular, Mr. Horseley is interested in the earlier history of the Smith family and the Heritage Commission will undertake to help him with his research by putting him in touch with local historians who are well versed in the Smith lineage. Mr. Horseley was interested as well in the Smith family artefacts on display in the Historic Rooms.

On the matter of the new and improved town website, Stanley said he wants the Heritage Commission to have a strong presence. The minutes, meeting hours and our email address will be posted along with links to Historical Society and Heritage Commission material posted on the Historical Society/Library website.

Stanley invited Commission members to take a look at a copy of the Wilton News, a monthly publication about Wilton. Its editor included an interview with Dick Putnam in this edition as well as featuring other articles covering Wilton news. It would be a good idea to have an article about the Tour of Historic Wilton brochure placed in the newsletter.

Plans for the placement of new signs in the coming year were discussed. A sign by the train station was suggested as well as a sign in Lot 48 dealing exclusively with the fires. Signs for Laurel Hill and the Catholic cemeteries as well as a larger sign for South Yard were considered. A small plaque on the Legion Hall is another possibility.

Stanley passed around an article on ground penetrating radar which can be a useful tool when studying old cemeteries and burial grounds, locating the likely locations of unmarked and forgotten graves. It would be useful to deploy GPR at the County Farm Cemetery if and when we gain access to the shamefully neglected site.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Clark, Secretary