

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
OF PHILLIPSTON**

c/o Kay Deans, Editor
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*Fostering Awareness of Our
History and Pride in Our
Community*

**Important Society Notice
Inside!!**

April: Membership Month

May: Annual Meeting

We're celebrating Membership Month in April. Membership in the Historical Society of Phillipston is a fabulous deal!! The cost to join is minimal at only \$5 per year for an individual. For \$100 you can even get a lifetime membership. And what benefits do you get for this?

Membership demonstrates your support for the community. Only members can vote at the annual meeting in May for the officers and directors who run the society. Members also participate in the society's monthly educational programs and receive the Society's newsletter which is published three times a year. **See insert and pay your dues—due at the annual meeting.**

We'll see you at the Annual Meeting on May 10th!

Look for us in June at the Gardner Museum — We'll be on Display

This June the Gardner Museum will be hosting displays from several of the area historical societies, including Phillipston. This is a great opportunity for our society to get broad recognition for both the society and our programs.

We can use your help. If you are interested in helping us arrange the display, please call Jane French (978-249-4356) or Kay Deans (978-939-4025).

The Historical Society
of Phillipston

The Phillipston Tattler

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2006

Published by
The Historical Society
of Phillipston

Send comments and/or
letters to Historical Society
of Phillipston, c/o Kay
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Switch Rd., Phillipston MA
01331

Memory Tree



Nancy MacEwen leads us in song as the tree is lit. Thanks to the Whiting Farm for donating the tree and Gerhard Fandreyer for assisting with the lights.



Great entertainment by the Chair City Pipers Chorus!



Inside this issue:

Program Schedule	2
Annual Meeting	2
Who's Who	3
Look for Us in June at the Gardner Museum	4
April is Membership Month	4



A big thanks go to our organizing team Nancy MacEwen, Chair (right) and Linda Langevin, Assistant (left)!

Training

On January 28, 2006, five Board members attended a training session on "Getting Ready for a Capital Campaign," organized and hosted by the Westminster Historical Society. Attendees came from several of the area historical societies,



Winter/Spring 2006 Program Schedule

*Generally programs are held on the second Wednesday of the month.
New members and guests are always welcome.*

February 2006

Troop 30 Goes to Philmont Scout Ranch. Presented by Zack Dossett, Ryan Twohey, Chris Nason, Trevor Peck and Tylor Fera-grudo. Wednesday, February 8, 2005 Time: 7:00 PM. Location: Congregational Church Vestry.

March 2006

Hats Through the Ages, Presented by Ruth Robinson, Wednesday March 8, 2006 Time: 7:00PM Location: Congregational Church Vestry,

April 2006

Bob Hurst and His Electric Car, Wednesday, April 12, 2006 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Town Barn. Bring a folding chair to sit on, as there are not many chairs at the barn.

April 2006 (cont.)

2-day Rug Braiding Class with Alice Zanga, Instructor. Mondays, April 3 and 10, 2006 from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Location: Phillips Library. Cost: \$40, includes materials. To reserve your space, call Nancy MacEwen, Tel: 978-249-7517.

May 2006

Annual Meeting and Pot Luck Supper. Wednesday, May 10, 2006 Time: 6:30 PM Location: Congregational Church Vestry

July 2006

Phillipston Garden Tour: Gardens and Gowns, Gardens, lunch and vintage clothing exhibit with fashion show. July 8 & 9, 2006.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting is held every May and is the time we elect our officers, directors and committee members. We are *always* looking for new people and new ideas.

Do you have a talent we can use? Do you want experience to add to your resume? Are you looking for an opportunity to contribute where contributing really makes a difference? Our society is small (approx. 80 members) but very active, with 30-50% of our members actively participating in programs and events each year. As we found out in talking with other societies in the area, these are unusually *good* statistics!!!

If you're interested, notify the nominating committee: Nancy MacEwen (978-249-

7517) Phil McMahon (978-249-8902) or Marilyn Holway (978-249-2184).

Who's Who (cont. from p. 3)

Thanksgiving Fair and the Prelude.

The commission's historic calendars were on sale, and the society handed out membership and program information. The commission sold many of their calendars at these events, and the society got wide recognition. Many current members stopped to say "Hi;" several people signed up for our mailing list; and four new members joined the Society.

Who's Who? — Historical Commission vs Historic District Commission vs Historical Society

Identity Crisis

It's a matter of *Identity Crisis!* Town residents are often stymied by the myriad of historical groups and their various roles. Phillipston is no different.

The Historical Society of Phillipston, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation. It is tax-exempt and has been awarded a 501 c(3) designation by the IRS, which means donations to the society can be deducted from the donor's personal income taxes. The purpose of the society is to cultivate and encourage an interest in the history of Phillipston. The society holds monthly educational programs and can acquire and preserve important artifacts as well as establish a society building and museum.

The Historical Commission is the part of town government responsible for community-wide historic preservation planning. The commission compiles an inventory of historic properties; nominates properties for the historic register; comments on state or federal projects that might impact on the town's historical resources (highway widening, new school location, etc.); and also advises town officials and boards on matters that affect these historic resources (zoning changes, the re-use of the town-owned historic buildings, preservation of historic landscapes, etc.).

If a town has a historic district, the *Historic District Commission is the regulatory body for design reviews within the historic district.* Phillipston's historic district is called the Phillipston Center Historic Area and includes the houses and buildings

surrounding the common and within a little more than one-half a mile from the meeting-house (the current Congregational Church). When the historic area was established in 1995, the town elected to *not require regulatory design reviews*, so the town does not have a Historic District Commission.

Working Together

The Historical Commission is one of the Society's most important partners. Through the Commission, the Society has access to state and federal funding for the preservation of buildings and artifacts. Private funding authorities also want to see the town's historical commission supportive of any society programs that they would fund.

In Phillipston, almost all members of the historical commission are members of the historical society. Last fall, the society and the commission teamed to promote our activities and programs. We had booths at the Pumpkin Festival, the Red Apple Farm's



Cont. p. 2

At the Red Apple Farm Thanksgiving fair — Jane French and Dick Hamel man the booth for the historical commission and the historical society.