Leverett Historical Commission

Mission Statement: *(Anne Schuyler draft as adapted by LHC 4/12/21; SM suggestion 5/10/21)*

The Leverett Historical Commission was created by act of Town Meeting in 1973 under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws, Part I, Title VII, Chapter 40, section 8D, with a mandate to identify, preserve, protect, and develop historical assets~~.~~ ~~(from the legal source~~)

Historical assets are defined as encompassing the entire historic landscape, and may include artefacts or sites relating to geological, archaeological, paleontological, architectural and (~~indigenous and historic)~~ traditional cultural heritage of all human inhabitants. ~~(in all eras~~).

*FOR REFERENCE - From Eva: (4/12)*

*"Historical assets are defined as encompassing the entire historic landscape, and may include Indigenous traditional cultural properties as well as cultural heritage of post-contact inhabitants, and geological, archaeological, architectural sites and artefacts."*

To accomplish this mission the Historical Commission’s activities include, but are not limited to:

*(Activities color-coded to approximately match coloration on the timeline.)*

1. Identify, research and inventory historical assets. (R) (I)
2. Evaluate and advise on restoration, preservation, reuse, and development of historic assets. (R&P)
3. To educate, engage, promote Leverett historical assets through interpretative programs, documentation, educational outreach. (E)
4. In partnership with other town committees and private residents, develop and assist in preservation planning. (R&P)
5. Review, recommend, regulate as authorized in bylaws. (R)
6. Explore funding and grant opportunities.(R&P)
7. Facilitate access to public records. (C&E)

More Vision-like language:

It is our belief that history is central to the sustainability and success of Leverett in the future. The unique character of Leverett today is shaped by its past; and its future depends on the protection of, and knowledge of, its historical assets. Leverett has a vast range of resources that define its historic landscape: features such as the layout of the roads; stone walls; houses and barns; mill buildings, dams, and mill foundations; Native American stone monuments; kilns, mines and quarries; cellar holes and cemeteries; and town records, letters, diaries, oral histories, and other archival resources.