

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTPORT HISTORICAL COMMISSION AND WESTPORT POINT HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

The year 2005 was one of major accomplishments for the Westport Historical Commission (WHC). The WHC revised its Guidelines for alterations, additions and new construction in the Westport Point Historic District, adopted a new application form for certificates and established detailed internal operating Rules and Regulations. These are all now available in the Town Hall, the office of the Building Inspector and online at www.wptna.org.

The WHC hopes for an expansion of the existing Westport Point Historic District by sixteen lots to its north along Main Road. Most of this section, along with parts of the existing historic district, is already included on the National Register. The impetus for this expansion came to the WHC via a petition from the property owners impacted. The WHC voted on October 13 to accept their petition and carry forth the project with the goal of having it accepted at the May 2006 Town Meeting.

The overseeing of the Westport Point Historic District continues to be the most time consuming work of the WHC. During 2005 the WHC held 43 sessions, of which 30 were public hearings and granted 16 certificates of appropriateness, 5 certificates of non-applicability, 0 certificates of hardship, and one denial. Of the 16 projects reviewed in 2005, 8 were major remodelings, 5 were minor remodelings, 2 were only windows, and one new building.

Members have been involved in heightening cemetery awareness and protection. An inventory of all cemeteries in the Town is in progress with the help of volunteers from the Westport Point Neighborhood Association (WPTNA) and a Westport High School student.

The WHC lent its voice to the Dartmouth Historical Commission to protest the planned demolition of the c.1740 Almy House on Horseneck Road. Members have been involved in working with WHALE to find a creative solution for the preservation of this important structure on our landscape.

The WHC has worked with the Community Preservation Committee and the owners of the Wolf Pit School at the Head of Westport to restore and preserve that historical schoolhouse. With the generous contribution of Sylvan Nursery the WHC has also launched 'The Mulberry Project' to raise maintenance funds for the schoolhouse through the sales of mulberry trees. Raising silkworms was a cottage industry in Westport in the 1800s and at that time there were many mulberry trees throughout the town.

WHC house plaques are available once again. WPTNA offered valuable help in this job. In the 1980s the WHC started a program of researching and producing historic house plaques for structures over 50 years old. Time and weather has taken their toll on many of these plaques and the Commission is now prepared to supply new or replacement house plaques to applicants throughout Westport at a nominal cost of \$50 per plaque. Application forms for plaques are available on the second floor of the Town Hall on the WHC bulletin board.

With funding through the Community Preservation Committee the WHC has begun a project of copying old maps of Westport and the vicinity and having them available for study in the history collection of the Westport Public Library. Many volunteer hours have been given to the library to help organize and preserve its Westport history collection.

The WHC maintains a list of historic buildings and structures in the Westport Inventory of Historic Buildings, Structures, Cemeteries and Objects available in the Head Librarian's office of the Westport

Public Library. The WHC Inventory is an ongoing project and we appreciate any additional information or corrections.

The Commission continues to publish and make available a number of publications including *Pa and I* and *Westporters and the Civil War*.

The WHC's annual budget of \$575 goes to supplies and postage.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine Millham

Regular members:

Geraldine Millham, Chairman
Norma Judson, Vice Chairman
Sharon Connors, Treasurer
Jane Loos, Recording Secretary
Bette DeVeuve, Clerk
Dora Millikin
William Wyatt

Alternate members:

Anne Baker
Barbara Koenitzer
Michael Quinn
Timothy Bryant

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE WESTPORT TOWN FARM

2005 came and went quietly at the Town Farm. The two apartments have housed the same steady tenants for a number of years and the land continues to be rented and maintained by a neighboring farmer. The major improvement of FY05 was the installation of a shower in the first floor bathroom of the south apartment.

The entire property earns \$22,925.00 in rents all of which go into the Town's general fund. The farm's annual budget of \$2,816.00 is spent on maintenance and repairs. At present the Town Farm Trust Account contains \$13,544. This account was generated by a private donation.

While the farm generates income for the town, it also preserves a unique 18th century farmstead and provides an oasis along Drift Road free of change and development.

Respectfully submitted,
Geraldine Millham