

March 2008

Annual Report for 2007

**Andover Preservation Commission**

*The Andover Preservation Commission endeavors to fulfill its mission to advise the town concerning the preservation of its historic and archeological resources and has been active in the following areas*

Demolition Delay Bylaw:

The Preservation Commission heard demolition requests for three properties this year and imposed delays of 0 to 12 months. Two structures were deemed historically significant but required emergency demolition. One structure, an addition, was determined to be not historically significant and was demolished.

Twenty-four applications were reviewed for historic appropriateness. Twelve applications received required no review.

Dimensional Special Permit/Historic Preservation: Three requests were submitted.

Local Historic Districts:

The Andover Preservation Commission and the Ballardvale Historic District Commission work cooperatively on issues of mutual interest. Lynn Smiledge represents the Preservation Commission's on the BVHDC.

West Parish Garden Cemetery Committee: Jim Batchelder, Preservation Commission representative, has developed a power point slide presentation for those people unable to walk the historic burying ground. He offers guided tours of this historic cemetery and landmark 1909 Chapel each October. (See [westparishgardencemetery.org](http://westparishgardencemetery.org) for more information).

Heritage Education:

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Andover Preservation Awards were held in May of 2007 at Memorial Hall Library in cooperation with the Andover Historical Society and the Ballardvale Historic District Commission to recognize outstanding examples of historic preservation in the community. Nine property owners and one individual received recognition for their efforts.

Projects of Note:

- *Historic Building Survey Project*  
Lynn Smiledge is directing the first phase of a project to update and add to the Andover Historic Building Survey, a collaborative effort of the Preservation Commission, the Andover Historical Society and Memorial Hall Library. The project will digitize the general survey of Andover's historic buildings from the late 17th century through the early 20th century. Dean Baumeister, library systems coordinator at Memorial Hall Library, created the searchable database. It can be modified as new information becomes available. The web site, hosted by Memorial Hall Library, will allow researchers and town departments Internet access to this information. A May 2008 launch date is planned. Phase 2 of this project will broaden the survey to include appropriate 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings.
- *Design Review Task Force*  
We remain vitally interested in the historic buildings and character of downtown and Main Street corridor to Rt. 495. The Design Review Task Force, chaired by Karen Herman, successfully presented an article for the April Town 2007 Meeting to improve the existing design review bylaw. Lynn Smiledge represents the Preservation Commission on the Design Review Board. The Preservation Commission also supported

the successful article to limit building size within the Mixed Use District and require design review for new construction in this district. These new tools will help sustain Andover's unique character.

- We continue to develop goals and pursue opportunities to better preserve our historic resources. Preservation restrictions are an approval requirement of the Dimensional Special Permit for Historic Preservation. One preservation restriction was approved this year. The Commission encourages individual homeowners to consider preservation restrictions or easements for the protection of their historic properties.
- Acting in our advisory capacity, we are developing and offering educational materials to the public. These resources help individual building owners understand the meaning of historic preservation, instruct them on the selection of appropriate materials and direct them to appropriate alternatives when cost is an issue. As always, we are willing to advise building owners on their historic preservation projects.

Andover Preservation Commission Members:

Karen Herman, Chair, James Batchelder, Leslie Frost, Norma Gammon, Dennis Ingram, Margaret Salafia, Lynn Smiledge