



2013 Princeton Historical Commission Annual Report

The most visible accomplishment of the Princeton Historical Commission (PHC) in 2013 was the restoration of the 1930 Bay Colony Tercentenary Commission Redemption Rock historical marker on Route 140. The students of Worcester Technical High School took on the restoration at no cost to Princeton. They followed strict historical quality specifications and did a superb job. We hope that all Princeton residents will join us in thanking them and their teachers, including Princeton Resident Rick Torres, as well as the Highway Department for reinstalling the marker and Nal's Paint of Worcester for donating the paint. The PHC has also accomplished a long needed correction of errors and inconsistencies on the "Entering Princeton" road signs. They are now consistent with the Town's 1759 date of establishment. We give special thanks to member Joyce Anderson for spearheading this effort and to Alex Fiandaca & Mickey Splaine for making the sign changes.

The PHC continues to be committed to the multi-year effort to conserve Meetinghouse Cemetery. We have formulated a plan to address footstones, partial footstones and small fragments with special markings that have surfaced over the course of the cemetery restoration project. We look forward to continuing to restore all of the endangered stones working in cooperation with the Cemetery Commission and the Princeton Historical Society. Alex Fiandaca deserves special thanks for directing this effort.

The PHC has continued to deliver on its obligation to find and nominate Princeton landmarks for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination of Princeton's Four Corners District has been completed and submitted to the Massachusetts Historical Commission. The nomination is now awaiting approval by the National Park Service and we are eager to present this fifth successful nomination to the National Register to the residents of Princeton.

Members of the PHC have worked to resolve questions of eligibility of Everettville and the Boylston House and Farm area for National Register listing and will pursue further research. Copies of the Wachusett Mountain National Register nomination are now available for residents to read at the library and in the files of the Historical Society and Historical Commission. We have begun planning meaningful support for the positive identification of Sunset Rock, the site of Princeton's first meetinghouse.

The PHC has worked to revamp our popular Historic Plaque Program and have worked on a new, public education program to assist homeowners in participating in the research of their own properties. We expect to announce this new program in 2014.

The PHC has continued to support the efforts of the Friends of Mechanics Hall as well as an effort by the Daughters of the American Revolution to raise awareness of the role of Worcester and its surrounding communities in pre-revolutionary acts of resistance. Princeton played a substantial role in early Revolutionary War activities and the PHC will work proudly with the Princeton Historical Society to help ensure that our place in history is recognized.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dubman