

12/1/10 General Meeting  
Loudon Historical Society

Attendees:

Michele York  
Cyndi Babonis  
Beccy Smith  
Irene Dow  
Ron Lane  
Colin Cabot  
Earl Tuson

Bob Ordway presented four bids for the tree removal at the Town Pound. The group chose a bid and Bob agreed to contact the contractor selected. Bob will oversee the work. The group agreed that we will spend the next meeting working on an application for the Moose Plate Grant to help us with the restoration of the walls.

Colin Cabot discussed the Sanborn Mills Farm and some of their plans for the future. He reviewed its historical significance as likely the oldest functioning water powered saw mill in the state still in its original location. The site also includes a working farm, grist mill and blacksmith shop surrounded by almost 2,000 acres in conservation. He stated that it is a nonprofit which provides opportunities for people to learn old-fashioned ways and explore how they can be integrated into modern life. They would like to further develop it as an educational retreat where the skills taught are based on this 19th Century industry. Given the costs of maintaining these historic structures, he is looking for ways to develop the farm so that it can continue to sustain itself financially beyond his stewardship. One barrier is that the farm is not currently zoned to permit this type of business. He is looking for the support of the Historical Society in his efforts to negotiate for exceptions or changes to the zoning to allow this.

The Historical Society recognizes the historical significance of the Sanborn Mills Farm and its value to the Loudon Community. We fully support the Cabot's efforts to preserve and sustain it for future generations. It teaches self sufficiency within our community which was common in the 19th century, but examples such as this are rare today. We support necessary zoning changes to allow these activities while maintaining the rural agricultural environment in which it is located.

The Director's meeting for December is cancelled due to the timing with the hectic holiday season.

Next General meeting will be Wednesday January 5th at 7pm.

Meeting adjourned.  
Respectfully Submitted,  
Cynthia Babonis  
LHS Secretary