

DUNBARTON HISTORICAL AWARENESS COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013
AT THE DUNBARTON TOWN OFFICES

PRESENT: Les Hammond, Ken Swayze, Allison and Ted Vallieres, Donna Dunn, Laraine Allen, Bill and Rebecca Rolke.

COBBLER SHOP: On Tuesday, May 7, 2013, Donna was onstage at the Audi in Concord, where she accepted an award inscribed to her and the DHAC, from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, "For Outstanding Restoration of the Dunbarton Cobbler Shop". A brief talk by Donna described the journey of the project; from its start as an idea for a garden shed for the Dunns (which she noted they still do not have!). The tiny structure's importance to history was not lost on the Alliance, as it was honored among much physically larger projects. Few cobbler shops remain anywhere, and Dunbarton is lucky enough to have one. It is the first structure on the General John Stark Scenic Byway to have won an award, and it was mentioned on National Public Radio.

Sunday, June 9, 2013, from twelve to four in the afternoon, will be the day the shop is officially opened to the public. A representative from the NH Preservation Alliance has been invited to be there, for a re-dedication. Donna has engaged DJ and Pete Annicchiarico, Concord shoe-repairmen, to appear. They were gifted with a book, *The Dictionary of Leather Working Tools, 1700-1950*, by R.A.Salaman. On Dedication Day, the shoe repairmen will field questions, and people may drop off their shoes needing repair.

Other invitees include a former Dunbarton resident, who knew the daughter of the cobbler, T. Sylvester Wilson, for whom the shop is named. Cordwainers, who specialize in creating luxury footwear, will also be invited.

Children will be welcome, and there will be programs for kids, such as a "Grubby Shoe Contest". Costumed children will offer refreshments for a suggested donation, which will benefit the Dunbarton Town Hall and Theatre Restoration Project.

The contents of the shop, which include authentic antique shoe-related materials, will be installed closer to opening day. Portions of newspapers from the 1840s and 1870s were found within the cobbler shop structure, and copies of these papers will be available for public viewing.

On display will be antique, mostly childrens shoes, said Laraine, who will also show patterns of shoes and metal plates, heels and shoe lasts, which were found under a floor at the Molly Stark House. Early families needed some sort of shoemaking activity, and traveling shoemakers would stay with them for a while, and earn money by making shoes.

The 1800's horse-drawn, restored hearse will arrive at one p.m., the schoolhouse and blacksmith shop will be open, and there will be a reasonably priced plant sale.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, June 24, 2013, at 6:30 p.m., at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Rolke, Chair and Secretary