

## Heritage Commission Annual Report 2004

At the 2004 Annual Town Meeting the voters of Belmont authorized the establishment of a Heritage Commission. The petitioned warrant article establishing the Commission was prompted by recommendations contained in the 2002-updated Master Plan and by an increasing awareness of the need to document and preserve our cultural resources. The function of a Heritage Commission in many ways parallels that of a Conservation Commission except that its emphasis is on historic and cultural resources rather than natural resources.

For various reasons the Selectmen were delayed in the appointment of members to the Commission so that full members was not completed until the August 18, 2004 meeting of the Selectmen, with Doralyn M. Harper appointed as the Selectmen's representative. Unfortunately, Selectman Harper shortly thereafter became ill and later resigned her position. Roy Roberts replaced her at the November 1, 2004 meeting.

On November 17, 2004, the Heritage Commission held its first meeting at which time the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary were appointed and several issues were discussed for action at future meetings, such as adoption of a mission statement and the establishment of a Heritage Fund. It is anticipated that meetings will be held monthly during 2005.

One of the purposes of the Heritage Commission, as authorized by RSA 674:44-b is to research and document cultural resources and to assist and advise other agencies and non-profit groups when requested. The Commission is also empowered to accept gifts of money and property and to expend money for its purposes.

The Commission looks forward to a productive 2005. Citizens are encouraged to bring to our attention historic or cultural sites which are threatened or which lack documentation and recognition.

Respectfully submitted,

Wallace Rhodes, Chairman  
Linda Frawley, Vice Chairman  
Margaret Normandin, Secretary  
Diane Marden  
Roy T. Roberts, Selectmen's Representative