

► Vintage Jewelry Presentation continued from page 1

plastics. Thirty-five years ago, Shelley turned her love of jewelry into a business devoted to buying vintage and estate jewelry and collectibles and selling them in three antiques stores in New Hampshire. Now owner of an online boutique (www.VintageJewelryOnline.com) specializing in upscale vintage jewelry and accessories, Shelley was thrilled to be asked to give the seminar to the

joint Questers meeting. Her advice for other collectors is: “Buy what you like!” This event, which is sponsored and hosted by the Nipmugs chapter of Questers, will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church on Rt 101 (drive-way next to Amherst Garden Center). It is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call Mindy Burns 424-0799.

► PMEC Addition Completed continued from page 1

held to celebrate the completion of the building, a sustainable environmental center which is operated by The Amherst Recreation Department since the Board of Selectmen incorporated PMEC into the Recreation Department. This project has been many years in the making and the additional 5,200 square foot space allows for growth in their educational and camp programs. This project has been a community effort from the start. The celebration was an opportunity to recognize the many contributors along the way to completion. The building has been constructed with the latest in geothermal heating and cooling. It offers office space for staff, storage, meeting space, a small museum, a store, and large space for educational programs with display area for exhibits. The windows, carpets, wood and insulation are all environmentally friendly and it's handicapped accessible throughout. Additional programs using the space include Hartshorn summer camp, scouts groups, yoga classes, fireside chats, and programs focused on green building and the environment, animals and woodland gardening. Recreation director, Nancy McMillan says that the Board of Selectmen felt that more attention was needed for PMEC and that included a heightened awareness of how it fit into the community. She continued, “Recreation has been primarily youth sports, however other passive and active recreation was needed under one department. PMEC adds education to this mix. The recre-

ation commission needed to understand the mission of PMEC and uphold the environmental education.” Another important part of the PMEC mission is their work with the curriculum director at the SAU. “We offer programs for the Amherst students here and at the schools. We're hoping to strengthen the existing program and expand it to the Amherst Middle School and Souhegan High School,” said McMillan. Vicki Laforet, PMEC director who oversees a corps of 400 volunteers plus part time office and program administrators, says “We're developing a philosophy for the kind of programs and policy for rental space. We want to encourage people to come and use the building.” The recreation director welcomes new ideas for programming. “We are always looking for new ideas and new instructors. Our classes on survival techniques in the wilderness and hiking are very popular. As is the Lewis and Clark fireside chat. We'd like to build on these and develop more adult programming,” said McMillan. The Recreation Commission will be embarking on a facility and program plan to identify what the general public would be interested in. Friends of PMEC is an independent, non-profit organization to support the work of PMEC that will be modeled after Friends of the Library. If you're interested in getting involved call Amherst Recreation at 673-6248, PMEC at 673-1141 or visit us at www.pmec.org or amherstrec.org for more information.

House Tour on December 6:

Early Occupants of Amherst's Historic Houses

By KATRINA HOLMAN

The attorney who inherited a fortune, built a grand house for his bride, then deserted his hometown in sorrow at her early death & the couple who created the Bean Foundation Right at the intersection of Amherst Village's only traffic light is a house everybody notices: a big beautiful brick house with gorgeous park-like gardens. Don't miss the chance to visit this architectural treasure on the Christmas in Amherst Village house tour!

Of refined elegance inside and out, it was clearly designed to impress. There is a formal entrance at the back as well as the front, both fronted by a wide piazza with graceful ionic columns. Even the side facade has fancy details in the brickwork. The upstairs center hall was just as large as the immense ground-floor center hall. The two adjoining formal rooms with extravagant 10-foot ceilings can still be called large today; they must have been considered enormous when built.

Who built this house and why? Robert Means, Jr. (1786-1842), an attorney and insurance agent, married in June 1823 a few months after the death of his wealthy father, Col. Robert Means (1742-1823). Junior was the third son and grew up in the house on Pierce Lane next to Town Hall, which was the grandest house in Amherst when it was built in 1785. His substantial inheritance enabled him to build a huge house of his own; his wife Mary was surely the inspiration for it. In July 1824, he placed an ad in the local paper soliciting bids for thousands of feet of exactly specified lumber.

The construction was completed in 1825. The Meanses clearly cared about the internal, structural quality as much as they did about appearances. This was called the “best built house for miles around” by local author Emma B. Locke (1916), and it is as sound and as straight today as in the year it was built.

After the death of his first wife at age 27 in 1829, Means sold this house and moved to Lowell where he changed professions, becoming an agent of a mill. His furniture, cooking stove complete with copper boiler and tea kettle, farming tools, plough, 30 bushels corn, oats, etc. etc. were auctioned off at this house in November 1831.

Barnabas Bradd David (1802-1883), formerly of Albany and Boston, purchased the house in 1831 and raised five children here with his wife Elizabeth W. Melendy (1802-1892) of Amherst. She was the sister of his business partner Samuel B. Melendy. These men had an unusually close partnership: they held their properties in common and paid the expenses of each family from common funds. Melendy & David manufactured buggy whips and their factory nearby was one of the largest employers in Amherst. Melendy & David also sold water from this property, supplying it to other residents of the Village.

Barnabas David was an important figure in 1800s Amherst. He served on the Board of Selectmen, in the Legislature, as chairman of the Building Committee for the new Brick School, and on the Board of Directors of the Northern Railroad. He was Deacon of the Congregational Church for many years.



COURTESY PHOTO

Amherst architectural treasure: Robert Means, Jr.-Barnabas David House

This house later became the summer residence of their granddaughter Elizabeth (“Bessie”) David Nichols (1874-1967) and her husband Norwin S. Bean (1873-1957), a banker. The Beans lived in Manchester. In early twentieth-century Amherst, the Season didn't officially begin till the three grand houses opened for the summer – the David-Bean House as it was then called, along with the Dana-Spalding-Davis House on the western end of the Plain and Col. Robert Means House on the eastern end of the Plain. The childless Beans started the Bean Foundation, which continues to benefit non-profit groups in Amherst and Manchester, NH. There are many artifacts of the David family and their descendants in Amherst's historical museums, including portraits, ivory ware, and

an old boneshaker bicycle. The fact that the Robert Means, Jr.-Barnabas David House was a summer home for decades and remained in the family till the 1980s may well explain why the four gracious rooms and center hall of the ground floor remain unaltered in size and why their original refined architectural elements are so well preserved. More of the house's history and architectural details are described in the tour booklet. Special thanks to the Historical Society of Amherst: Bill Wichman for annotated Howard Locke Houses CD (in Town Library); Jackie Marshall for Amherst genealogy and old tax records; Bill Veillette for R. Means Sr.'s will; and Bob Rowe for inspiration. For more information, see www.ccamherst.org/cav_2008.htm

► Assessing Our Goals continued from page 1

goals is the preservation of the town character, including our landscapes, views and buildings. Organized events and cultural activities that reflect our community character are also encouraged.

Natural Resources

Our Natural resource goals target preservation of existing natural resources and rural landscapes, including soils, surface water, aquifers, rural landscapes, a diversity of habitats, meadows, and forests.

Housing

Consultant Brian Barber, stated that the housing goals now focus on keeping the northern part of town as is, while increasing clusters, etc in the southern and central sections, with an emphasis on affordability and diversity. Statements by those in attendance that affordable housing was covered by a state law, and that it was not emphasized in Master Planning meetings made it clear that emphasis on affordable house should change.

Economic Development

There is effort to limit economic development along route 101, and to better manage it along route 101A. Small neighborhood stores, and frontage roads to interconnect lots along route 101A have received some positive reactions. Michael Del Orfano asked if we needed a strategy to attract businesses to town which don't damage the rural character.

Transportation

Transportation goals spotlight safety, efficiency,

preserving town character, controlling volume and speed, and providing better support for pedestrians and bicycles. Consultant, Bill Giezantanner suggested that we may need some carrots to keep the traffic volumes on the higher-level roadways, and perhaps some sticks to keep the traffic off the back/side roads

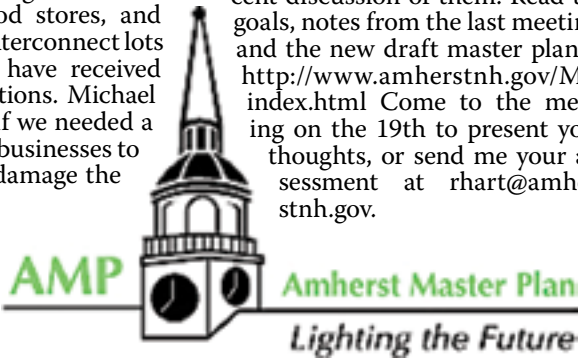
Public Facilities and Services

Education, sustainability, services for seniors and teens, and the new town impact fees, among other things, are addressed in the goals for public facilities and services. No town sewer was included in the goals because, as one attendee said, lots of work has been done to develop a sewer and it hasn't gone anywhere.

Recreation

The recreation goals center on providing a diversity of active and passive recreation for adults, youth, teens, and seniors. Better access to rivers and ponds and exploration of the possibility of developing parks are also considered.

Space here makes it impossible to consider all the goals or the recent discussion of them. Read the goals, notes from the last meeting, and the new draft master plan at <http://www.amherstnh.gov/MP/index.html> Come to the meeting on the 19th to present your thoughts, or send me your assessment at rhart@amherstnh.gov.



The Many Uses of Peabody Mill Environmental Center Include the Following

Summer Day Programs
Classroom nature programs
After school programs

- School vacation programs with a nature education theme
- Teacher workshops-elementary science
- Educational workshops for homeowners, foresters
- Science and nature weekend programs geared for families
- Resource for science/nature educational materials-open at scheduled times
- Nature museum open regularly on weekends
- Snowshoe rental program
- Provider of resources and programs that can be taken into area schools
- Use by groups for educational purposes ie. seniors, art classes
- Limited use for small meetings for supporting organizations
- Assistance with scout troop badges
- Informational classes for homeowners

Note that PMEC is not available for adult social functions

If you would like to plan a special program to meet the needs for your organization or for additional information on any of the above programs, call us at 673-1141.

The mission of PMEC is to foster an awareness, understanding and appreciation of the natural world, by offering environmental, conservation, and science programs to all ages. PMEC strives to foster diligent stewardship of our environment so that future generations may inherit and continue to be inspired by the wonders of a protected and natural world.

FALL FOR A BEAUTIFUL SMILE

Invisalign® Day

Saturday, November 22nd 8:00am - 12:00pm

Dr. Gary Lindner will be providing Invisalign treatment consultations to answer your questions about Invisalign treatment, the clear way to straighten teeth. If you have wondered if Invisalign is right for you, ask Treatment Coordinator, Amy Browning, (603) 624-3900 x119 to schedule you for an appointment for this special event.

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