

**Mad River Byway Historic Sites Task Group – re: the old Taplin Schoolhouse  
Meeting Notes, 11/30/06, Moretown Elementary School**

**Present: Jack Byrne, Stephanie Venema, Lynne Metcalfe, Don Wexler, Hilary Byrne, Chloe Wexler, Julia Hayer, Brenda Hartshorn, Denise Gabaree**

Brenda and Kathi Orr teach a section on Moretown history and could include the Taplin Schoolhouse as part of it.

Earline Marsh worked with Brenda gathering up info and pictures and other items related to the Taplin schoolhouse and the power station. Earline has all the notes and info and would share it with us.

**Visions for the Taplin Schoolhouse – some ideas**

Interactive events like skits, movies, reproduction of the actual schoolhouse with characters in costume and playing the part of teachers and students back then.

An old fashioned school day that visitors would come see – running for a week featuring Moretown school kids and teachers and others.

Side by side comparison – schooling back then vs. today – a time machine trip

Trail maps, byway orientation and information, kiosk, interpretive sign.

Associated tours of the Green Mountain Power dam and turbines.

Fall foliage event

History of villages exhibit (Mtwm and Msex) and role of old schoolhouses

Open year round w/ regular hours and lots of visitors. Used by community members for special events.

Once a year “green up” by school kids with Taplin Schoolhouse as “headquarters”

**Condition of the Existing Building**

Town sold to GMP for \$100 or so in 70's

Roof may need repair

Second floor is only accessible by a ladder

There is woodworking equipment stored there owned by a former GMP employee.

Not sure about septic, water supply, condition of the foundation.

Green Mountain Power is very willing to work with town to make the building function as a byway asset. We should find out what kind of arrangement they would consider: - lease, purchase (\$100?). What kind of liability concerns and coverage would be needed? What concerns would the neighboring homeowners have?

### **Next Steps**

1. Research (Hilary, Chloe, Harwood students):
  - town records on the schoolhouse to learn more about the building, the site, deed restrictions and history, etc.
  - Earline Marsh's collection of information
  - people with firsthand knowledge and experience with the schoolhouse
  - pictures, anything else
  
2. Initial Assessment of the Building and the Site (Don Wexler, Jack Barnes, Joe Gabaree, John Summers, John Egan....?)
  - get a group of town residents with expertise in the building trades to do an initial assessment of the building condition and what would need to be repaired, replaced, upgraded, etc.
  
3. Make an initial estimate of how much it would cost to shape up the building and site to be used in a proposal for restoration work.
  
4. Meet with Steve Gladczuk to discuss funding possibilities and guidelines
  
5. Next meeting: Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 7 pm, place to be determined.