

Newsletter

(508) 358-7959

<http://www.waylandhistoricalsociety.org/>

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Founded in 1954

John Heckscher, Editor

The Grout-Heard House is open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays, 9:30 – Noon

HISTORICAL SOCIETY VOICES CONCERN AT PROPOSED CHANGES

At its March Board meeting, your society authorized President Sciacca to write the following letter, herein included in its entirety:

March 20, 2008

Secretary Ian A. Bowles
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
ATTN: MEPA Office
Holly Johnson, EOE # 13844
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Secretary Bowles:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wayland Town Center Project FEIR, MEPA # 13844.

The Wayland Historical Society is a private non-profit organization that owns and operates the Grout-Heard House, the oldest building in the Wayland Historic District. The Grout-Heard House serves as the historical museum for the Town of Wayland and is the venue for frequent programs for adults and schoolchildren. It is the repository for nearly 400 years of Wayland historical artifacts. The Society works closely with the town boards concerned with historic preservation, the Wayland Historic District Commission and the Wayland Historical Commission.

The Board of Managers of the Historical Society is concerned that several elements of the recently proposed traffic mitigation plans for the Town Center Project will have severe negative impacts on the Grout-Heard House and Wayland's historic town center (as distinct from the Town Center Project, which is the real estate development). Of most concern are the new traffic lights proposed for the intersection of routes 126 and 27, directly in front of the Grout-Heard House. With multiple poles and multiple lights, this new structure will severely detract from the historic ambience of the House and the area. It will also, as we understand it, lead to additional road widening, cutting into the green space in front of the House and the historic charm that green space adds. We also fear that the presence of this light will lead to gridlock whenever someone traveling from the north attempts to make the left into the Grout-Heard House driveway.

For all these reasons we recommend, in the strongest possible terms, that any traffic light be located at the access driveway to the development rather than compromise over 300 years of Wayland history.

We also object to plans to further shrink the Mellen Law Office Green along route 20, which has been the Town Green for nearly 300 years. Roadwork over the years has chopped the Green roughly in half. It was already a century old and extended to Mill Brook on the south before the first version of what is now Route 20 was built. Every additional inch taken from the Green destroys not just Wayland's history but our national heritage as well, as it was the mustering point for the Sudbury Militia before they marched to Concord on April 19, 1775 to help give birth to our nation. We are amazed at the cavalier attitude of people who would never dream of desecrating an American flag toward taking another piece of the Green.

Very truly yours,
Jane Sciacca, President
Wayland Historical Society
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MUSICIANS OF THE OLD POST ROAD PRESENT CONCERT

Friday, April 11, 8 p.m., First Parish, Rtes 20 & 27, Wayland the Musicians of the Old Post Road will explore chamber music in early America in a program titled "Transatlantic Crossings". The concert will include striking compositions by this country's first native-born classical composer John Antes, along with works by the many immigrant composers, including J. F. Peter, J. Gehot, and J. C. Moller, who were creating and participating in the vibrant musical scenes of Boston, Philadelphia, and the Germanic Moravian communities in Pennsylvania and North Carolina. Also offered will be fine music by Haydn and other European composers known to have received performances in colonial America.

The Musicians of the Old Post Road are a chamber ensemble specializing in the period instrument performance of music from the Baroque, Classical, and early Romantic periods. The ensemble offers a dynamic and diverse repertory that includes "rediscovered" works that have been lost to audiences for centuries. The ensemble takes its name from its acclaimed concert series, originally entitled Old Post Road Historic Concerts, founded in 1989. MOPR's series brings period instrument performances to historical buildings along the route of the old Boston Post Road, the first "highway" linking Boston and New York City beginning in the 1670s. Concert sites include meetinghouses, churches, mansions, museums and public halls, and the repertory spans the period of the Old Post Road's prominence, from the late 17th to the mid-19th century.

COMMEMORATING LOKERVILLE GREEN

On Sunday afternoon, May 4, a brief ceremony will dedicate Lokerville Green, that small triangle at the intersection of Commonwealth and West Plain Roads, near the Villa. George Lewis will speak on the historical background of the area, once the bustling center of the Lokerville community. In the early nineteenth century, Lokerville boasted a church, a school, a store and a tavern. It was named for the Lokers who farmed in this area before the land now called Cochituate, was annexed to our town in 1721.

Mr. Lewis will be introduced by President Jane Sciacca. The Historical Society Board has been instrumental in researching Lokerville and in asking Town Surveyor Alfred Berry to add the name, Lokerville Green, to the Town Atlas. The Beautification Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Veterans' Agent John Turchinez and the Public Ceremonies Committee were among the sponsoring groups. A color guard will open and close the ceremony in recognition of the World War II memorial, which also stands on this triangle. Refreshments will follow. The ceremony begins at 2 p.m. May 18th is the rain date.

A THANK-YOU NOTE

Many thanks to Ronald Michael of 14 Arthur Street, Natick, who recently repaired just beautifully, the drawer of our cherry highboy and who insisted on making his work on it, a gift.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Wayland Historical Society will take place Tuesday, May 13th, 7:30 pm at the Grout-Heard House. After reports and election of officers, Leslie Karpp and her brother, Edmund Hamilton Sears V, will introduce us to their grandparents' family in an exhibit of charming turn-of-the century photographs from the Sears Family album. The Sears family spent summers at the family farm on Pelham Island Road.

In other Grout-Heard House rooms, a dozen never-before-seen landscapes by Alfred Wayland Cutting, our well-known local photographer will be displayed. Also in the exhibit will be two shots of a National Guard Cavalry encampment held on the Sears farm during World War I. Dawn Davies will be hostess.

This program is partially supported by a grant from the Wayland Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. These photos were painstakingly reproduced by John Flaherty, whose services were in part contributed.

2008 DATES TO REMEMBER

<u>Date-Time-Place</u>	<u>Event</u>
Friday, April 11 th , 8:00 p.m. First Parish Church, Wayland Center	Transatlantic Crossings – Chamber Music by Musicians of the Old Post Road
Sunday, May 4 th , 2:00 p.m. Lokerville Green (near The Villa)	Dedication of “Lokerville Green” George Lewis
Tuesday, May 13 th , 7:30 p.m. Grout-Heard House, Wayland Center	ANNUAL MEETING, plus exhibit of Alfred Wayland Cutting never-before-seen photos Leslie Karpp & Edmund Hamilton Sears, V

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