



Highlands Preservation, Inc.

*A Non-Profit Organization Dedicated to Preserving the Highlands' Hidden Historic Resources*

**103 Whangtown Road**

**Kent Lakes, NY 10512**

**(845) 249-8880**

**[www.HighlandsPreservation.org](http://www.HighlandsPreservation.org)**

SUBJECT: Minutes of December 2010 Highlands Preservation, Inc. Board Meeting

DATE: December 9, 2010

IN ATTENDANCE: HP Chairman Tom Maxson, Vice Chairman Ryan Maxson, Secretary Andrea Messinger, and HP volunteer members.

The Chairman reported that the November 18, 2010 presentation regarding the stone chambers in Kent at the Kent Historical Society was extremely well attended and received. The meeting room was standing room only, extending out to the vestibule, and the avalanche of questions and follow up discussions indicated a great deal of interest in this topic. We also received a number of tips regarding additional chambers previously unknown to researchers, which we will be following up on. We feel the number of documented stone chambers in Kent will soon reach 60 or more, solidifying Kent's place as "the stone chamber capital of the United States." We were extremely gratified by the outpouring of support from the community for our preservation efforts.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, we received reports from local NEARA members Gerry McLaughlin and Donna Savino of a stone chamber on Routes 22/202 in Brewster which appeared to be threatened by a construction project at that site. As it turns out, the owner has expressed their desire to protect the chamber, which we very much appreciate. However, some issues remain between the DOT and the



owner regarding a driveway planned for the site, which will need to be monitored. We're asking everyone to refrain from contacting the property owner, who has been deluged by phone calls. We want to thank our friends from NEARA, including Gerry and Donna, and Polly Midgely, along with Lou Tartaro, Kathleen Delamere, Denis Castelli, and County Legislators Richard Othmer and Dini Lobue, who were all supportive in the event the chamber was threatened. (Photo courtesy of Gerry McLaughlin and Donna Savino)

On 12/8/10 Tom Maxson met with “PlanKent”, a local non-profit group, to discuss the “remnant roads” in Kent. We shared a white paper authored by the chairman on this subject, along with maps showing the locations of most of these “old” and “paper” roads. Additional meetings are being planned.

On a recent hike through Whang Hollow we noticed that the winter solstice chamber had a patch of white paint recently added on to the lintel stone. Luckily, the paint did not adhere well, and is flaking off. A local resident approached us to complain about all the lost hikers he has seen in the area since the NY Times article appeared in October.

We also led a hike up to the fire tower on Mt. Nimham on Nov. 29th, including some 30+ year residents who were shocked by the wave of new graffiti. We continue to be dismayed by the worsening vandalism problems, and by some recent statements made by others in the community stating that this is not a problem. We continue to disagree. Here’s what greets visitors as they walk up the hill to the fire tower:





The interior of the cabin is filled with graffiti not suitable for family viewing, so we have not included that picture.