



NOVEMBER 2014

LEEDS LETTER

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Restoring the Hotel Bridge to a Walking Bridge

Leeds Civic Association members have been busy this summer and early fall attending meetings and speaking with city officials about the need to restore the 1880's bridge to a walking bridge. Ward 7 city councilor, Alisa Klein has been helpful in getting the Hotel Bridge on the agenda at these city committee meetings and the city is in support of a restoration effort.

Since the bridge closed this summer, three newspapers have run articles about the Hotel Bridge. After the Sept. 16th front page Gazette article came out the LCA was contacted by the director of Workin' Bridges, an Iowa based organization committed to helping communities restore their historic iron bridges. Workin' Bridges' engineers are experts in iron and passionate about saving historic bridges. We hope to have the Workin' Bridges team visit the bridge, assess the scope of work, meet with city officials, and help us layout a step-by-step plan for restoration. In the mean time we will be consulting with UMass civil engineering professor, Sanjay Arwade. An application is being prepared to have the Hotel Bridge placed on the National Register of Historic Places which will then make it eligible for certain grants. A bike ride fund raiser for the Hotel Bridge will take place this coming Spring which will be organized by Alice Baedeker and Stephy Cho. Along with securing grant funding, support from the community is needed. A few fundraising ideas being considered are Hotel Bridge mugs, calendars, cards, shirts, and of course -good old individual contributions which can be made out to: LCA-Hotel Bridge Account and mailed to Florence Savings Bank, 85 Main Street, Florence 01062.



*****ECRWSS*****

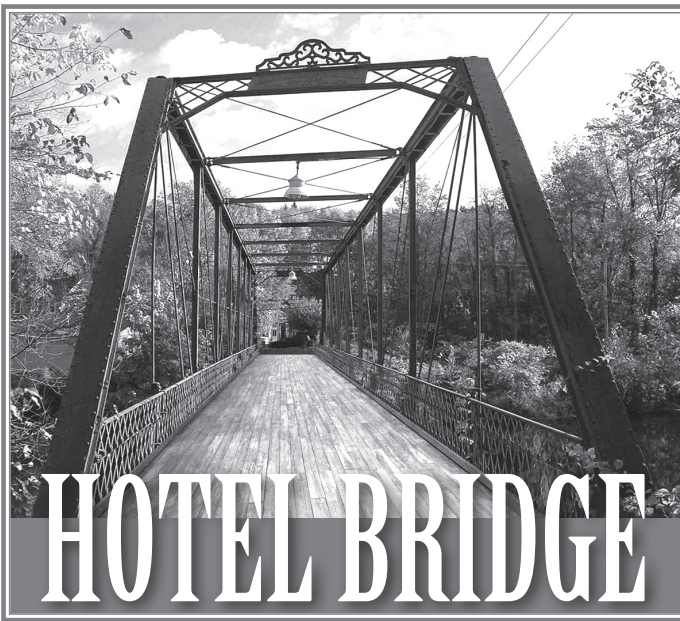
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Pumpkin Party

Late afternoon "pumpkin rolled" into night as the display of 60 pumpkins showed just how creative Leeds people can be, which is very creative! There were ice skating veggies on a frozen pumpkin pond, a jail house with veggie inmates, a pumpkin with a wild lollipop hairdo and another 57 incredible pumpkins. Thank you for bringing them! And, thanks to everyone who helped in this way or that, because without you we would have had no music, crackling firepit, colorful lights, grills to use, pumpkins to roll, grab bags to grab, a homemade apple pie to raffle, or delicious soups, side dishes, breads, and tasty desserts to enjoy. You may want to check out the 2014 pumpkin party photo galleries at LeedsCivic.org.

Leeds Traffic Calming

The people attending the October 8th Traffic Mitigation meeting had their say in where to spend the \$190,000 which comes from various construction projects in Leeds. The top spot identified was the intersection at Front Street and Grove Avenue where cars frequently straddle the line and children often cross on their way to and from Leeds school. Another spot people agreed to be unsafe is where Leonard Street meets Route 9 due to poor visibility when entering onto Route 9. Speeding on Florence Street was also cited as a problem, so please take it easy on the gas when going up and down the school hill.



Imagine being able to walk and bike across our much loved Hotel Bridge again.

If you are interested in helping with fund raising, grant writing, or have bridge photos from any time period we would love to know!

Please contact the
Leeds Civic Association.
LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com

UPCOMING 2014 EVENTS

November LCA Meeting

Tuesday, November 11, 7:00pm
Leeds School Teacher's Lounge
Come and bring your ideas!

Leeds - Mill River Greenway History Walk

Saturday, November 8
10:00am-12:00pm
Limit 20 guests. Reserve a spot at
www.MillRiverGreenway.org

Leeds Civic Association
P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053
LeedsCivicAssoc@gmail.com
www.LeedsCivic.org



Did you know that Leeds has had a civic association in existence for over 100 years?

The Leeds Men's Club held its first meeting on November 4, 1911. It started out as a "single men's" club (probably to keep the single young men out of trouble), then became the Leeds Men's Club. In the 1920s the name was changed to the Men's Civic Association of Leeds.

Through the years Leeds volunteers have offered their energy and creativity to advance the quality of life in the village and keep citizens connected with community events, information, and the pursuit of shared goals. This mission requires time and effort and most of all your support. Please consider renewing your LCA membership for 2015, or becoming a new LCA member.

LCA members and volunteers have made good stuff happen.

To give you an idea of what the LCA has been up to, here is a list of the 2014 activities:

- Holiday light display at Mulberry Street garden
- Leeds History and Hot Chocolate Slide Show /Memorabilia Sharing Social
- Annual Winter Pizza and Raffle Party at the Northampton Country Club
- Winter trash cleared from road sides
- Clean Green Outreach with Ward 7 city councilor, Alisa Klein
- Dog clean up signs posted on Main Street Green due to above listing
- Blazed trails on Roberts Hill Conservation Area with distinct markings
- Posted "Pack it in, Pack it out" sign on Mulberry Street entrance to the bike trail
- Awarded three LCA-Bradford Memorial educational scholarships
- Lobbied to have barriers removed from Hotel Bridge entrances and replaced with planters
- Barbecue Block Party at the Main Street Green
- Lobbied the city to address the litter problem along the river and put up small warning signs
- Public storm water meeting organized
- First Bike trail extension meeting organized with Wayne Feiden
- Maintain garden at Mulberry Street
- Weeded Flood Memorial site
- Traffic mitigation meeting organized with Wayne Feiden
- Saratoga Race Track bus trip
- Village Wide Tag Sale
- Second bike trail extension walk/meeting with ProTerra engineer, Wayne Feiden
- Publish the LCA newsletter 10 times per year
- LCA website for local news, photo galleries, and event information
- Annual Pumpkin Party
- Kids Summer Movie nights
- Leeds - Mill River Greenway Initiative partnership, help lead history walks
- Organizing campaign to restore Hotel Bridge to walking bridge
- Preparing grant applications for restoration funding for Hotel Bridge
- Planning fourth Hotel Bridge Bike Ride fund raiser

Thank you for renewing for 2015! Thank you for becoming a new member for 2015!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

☐ I would like to receive my newsletter electronically.

☐ I would like my newsletter hand delivered.

☐ I would like my newsletter mailed (include additional \$3 for postage).

☐ I am interested in volunteering. Please contact me.

New

Renew

☐
☐

\$10 Family Yearly Membership

☐
☐

\$25 Business Yearly Membership

(1 year LCA website advertising, please enclose business card)



Additional Donation \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Make checks payable to Leeds Civic Association
and return this form to: P.O. Box 114, Leeds, MA 01053