

# FRIENDS OF SAXONVILLE

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2015

## Town to Unveil Village Recommendations on June 11: Public Presentation at Cameron School

by Steven Weisman

**O**n June 11, 2015 at 7:00 pm, the Town with its consultant the Cecil Group will present the results of a four-month investigation into future economic development in Saxonville Village. This will be the third public meeting of this process that is also sponsored by the Town's Economic Development Investment Corporation (EDIC). Prior meetings have been attended by a mix of residents, business interests, and Town representatives.

Cecil Group, a Boston-based urban planning firm, has received input from the community, through interviews and the public meetings, to understand Village issues and opportunities and develop a shared community vision for future economic/community development.

The first public meeting identified a number of key attributes of the Village including: its historic infrastructure, including the Athenaeum and mill buildings; the Sudbury River; and recreational trails including the Carol Getchell Nature Trail and the Cochetuate Rail Trail. It also identified a number of issues and needs, such as: lack of retailers and service providers in the Village, walkability problems caused by traffic through McGrath Square, lack of easy visual and recreational access to the river, and limited parking.

The second meeting reviewed and confirmed the first meeting's findings and moved on to focus on three potential economic development opportunities in the Village. These are the former State Lumber property at the intersection of School and Concord Streets, the Saxonville Mill complex, and the Pinefield Shopping Center. Attendees considered how these areas could be further developed to address community objectives, while meeting the financial objectives of property owners. Ideas were shared and compiled by Cecil Group.

**The key questions the Town hopes to answer are:**

- **What could and should the Village's commercial center be?**
- **What could and should the Village center look like?**
- **How do we get there?**

The Friends of Saxonville's Board members continue to be active participants in these meetings and discussions. We hope that FOS members and other community members will turn out on June 11 to listen to the presentation and provide feedback to the Town. ❖

## FOS Membership

by Paula Longden

**A**nual dues for membership are due at this time. Memberships run for the period of May 2015 – April 2016. Dues for individuals are \$25 and Business Memberships are \$50. The money received from the dues helps to offset the costs of running the Friends of Saxonville. The majority of the money received goes towards our quarterly newsletters.

You may send your payment by mail to Friends of Saxonville, P.O. Box 3236, Saxonville, MA 01705-3236 or go onto our website at <http://www.saxonville.org> to process the payment via PayPal. For questions, please call Paula Longden at (508) 877-7034. ❖

# RiverFest in Saxonville – June 20

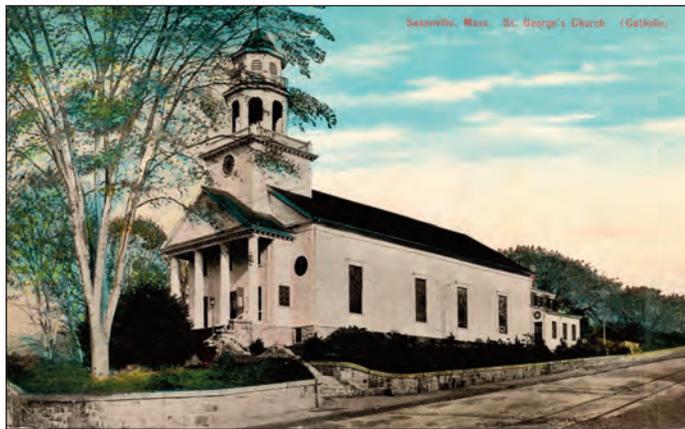
by David Longden

The FOS and the Town of Framingham's Conservation Department will work together to provide guided walks along the Sudbury River and Cochituate Brook as part of the annual RiverFest celebration.

**10 am – Nature/Discovery Walk:** Join the Framingham Conservation Commission "ambling down the river" on the Carol Getchell NatureTrail. Look for tracks and emerging plants along the banks of the Sudbury River as spring turns toward summer. Meet at the end of Little Farms Road. Join FOS members for a water stop at the Old Danforth Street Bridge. Walk into Saxonville and learn some of the history of the village with the aide of a walking map guide. Call (508) 532-5460 or email [conservationcommission@framinghamma.gov](mailto:conservationcommission@framinghamma.gov) to register and for directions and trail conditions. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed.

**2 pm – Explore the Cochituate:** Join the Framingham Conservation Commission for a walk along the new Cochituate Rail Trail, branching off into Cochituate Brook Reservation and out to the shores of the North Pond of Lake Cochituate State Park. Explore Cochituate Brook, a tributary of the Sudbury River and enjoy the transformed rail bed and the nature of the Reservation. Wear proper footwear for this longer walk. Call (508) 532-5460 or email [conservationcommission@framinghamma.gov](mailto:conservationcommission@framinghamma.gov) to register and for meeting location. Dogs are welcome but must be leashed.

For more information about Riverfest activities in other towns, visit <http://riverfest.sudbury-assabet-concord.org/>. ❖



St. George Church courtesy of Betty Schroeppel

## St. George Church

by Betty Schroeppel

Before St. George Church was built, a priest came to preach in various people's homes. Construction started on the original building in 1846 and was completed in 1848. Once built, it was the only Catholic Church between Boston and Worcester. A priest visited once a month to say Mass by horse and carriage. By the early 1960s the church was in disrepair and too small for the current congregation. It was razed and the current church was built in 1963. ❖

## Vibes from the Village

by Jan Harrington and Lynne Damianos

Mary McCarty, our newest Board Member, who often submitted material for this section of our newsletter, passed away March 18th. Her willingness to contribute her time and expertise to the FOS no matter the task – and – her enormous strength in facing serious illness, both impressed and inspired all of us. She will live on in our memories.

Best Wishes to former board member Brian LeFort with his new career in Washington D.C. We will also miss John Stasik and Laura Melegos who have stepped down from the board for personal reasons. ❖

## New Business Member

### SensationWear

Gina Offenstine  
2 Watson Place  
Building 5C  
Saxonville, MA 01701  
(508) 405-1450  
[www.sensationwear.com](http://www.sensationwear.com)  
[gina@sensationwear.com](mailto:gina@sensationwear.com)



Central Street bridge construction © Damianos Photography

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