

Heritage Commission Squamstock Announcement BOS Meeting May 7th, 2018 6:30PM

Good Evening. My name is Katie Maher and I am here on behalf of the Heritage Commission.

On July 1st, 1868, NH Governor Walter Harriman signed the bill partitioning the northwest corner of Holderness into the new town of Ashland NH. This separation came about because of **differences between the farmers and the businesses** on how the community should spend their tax dollars. Over the intervening years, our towns realized the benefits of working together and established mutual aid agreements and explored cooperative projects that benefited both of our communities.

Communities are made up of friendly neighbors. In 2013, Sid Lovett, a 90-year resident of Holderness, suggested that the 150th anniversary of Ashland was an opportunity to have a ‘rapprochement’ between Ashland & Holderness, better known as “a resumption of harmonious relations”. This brought to mind a really fun 1960s themed “Peace Party” and a great way to bring our two towns together in celebration. We established the 150th Committee in November 2013, held a launch party in September 2014 and began planning. Once Stacey Lucas, our graphic designer, interpreted our “Peace Party” theme as a mini-Woodstock, Squamstock was born.

The Heritage Commission voted to sponsor Squamstock in 2017 because it celebrates Ashland and Holderness’s shared heritage. We were founded together as New Holderness in 1761. We existed together over 100 years, including 1816, the year without a summer, when Reuben Whitten shared his wheat with ancestors. July 1st marks, 150 years to the day, a historic event in our two town’s shared history.

In order to encourage participation of both towns, we established Squamstock as an art festival fundraiser for our schools. The Principals of Ashland Elementary and Holderness Central schools have approved the event and engaged their art teachers to join in our effort. Students will be preparing “peace- themed” art in class and at the festival. Art templates will be available through our schools, recreation departments and libraries. Local artists will also be donating art for a silent auction. All proceeds will be distributed evenly between both schools by a third party fiscal agent.

Initially, we hoped to hold the event on the boundary between the Ashland & Holderness but the disruption to area businesses was significant, so after discarding an alternative plan to hold the event at the Ashland Beach & Bridge, we were fortunate to find a partner in the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center who offered its facilities & infrastructure for our use.

With partners and plans now finalized, the Heritage Commission is pleased to announce our **“Squamstock Peace Party” to be held on Sunday, July 1st 2018 from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on “Ashland/Holderness Day” at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness NH.** Admission to Squamstock is \$5.00 for anyone over the age of 5 and will include a wide variety of 1960s art making, 1960s reimagined games that encourage cooperation, 1960s music & dancing, retro snacks & drinks (think Ants on a Log & Tang) and peace themed décor. All hippies are welcome. Attendees will be signing a “Peace Promise” between the two towns which will be presented to each town’s historical society. The celebration will conclude with a polite “tug of war” between Ashland & Holderness, followed by handshakes & hugs, photographed, for posterity.

Art donated by children and local artists will be for sale and constitute the bulk of our fundraising with 100% of all proceeds from ticket sales, art sales and donations going to our schools. We are seeking individuals who would be interested in donating art supplies, whipping up a 1960s era snacks or volunteering at the festival as an art mentor or game monitor. Please contact the Ashland Heritage Commission if you would like to help.

We would like to request that the Ashland and Holderness Board of Selectmen consider being the first official signers of our two “Peace Promises”, so that the attendees, and especially the children, will recognize the importance of signing a promise of peace. The Heritage Commission will provide the agreement in advance for your consideration and execution. If one or more Selectmen were available to be at the event to oversee the signing, it would make this ceremonial experience more solemn and memorable.

Communities exist through shared interests, goals, attitudes and are established on common ground. A community knows no boundaries. **Peace begins with our neighbors.** Ashland and Holderness are a part of the larger Squam Region community; we were founded together as one town, our kids join together as one class at Plymouth Regional High School, our towns share resources through mutual aid & cross border projects, and all of our citizens’ share and enjoy the beautiful Squam Lake environs. We want to come together in peace as a single community celebrate Ashland’s 150th, and inspire our children’s creativity. We hope you will join us.

Thank you for your time.

Peace, Art, Squamstock