

Vieira's Shelburne Falls TEDx video goes viral

By Virginia Ray

SHELburne FALLS—The premier Shelburne Falls TEDx conference on Saturday, Nov. 3 made a big impact by all accounts, but perhaps for no one more than Ashfield stonemason Jim Vieira, whose talk, "Stonebuilders, Moundbuilders and the Giants of Ancient America," went viral on the Internet almost immediately. It was number one in the world for view this past week with 51,200 and number five most popular in the past month since the conference.

"I've received more than 96,500 views in two weeks," Vieira said Tuesday. "I got 10,000 last night. It seems to be picking up speed. The result has been an overwhelming amount of support, but also scorn and personal attacks by anthropologists and archaeolo-

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of anomalies being enthusiastically studied, the one who attempts [to do so] is treated like a whistleblower, mocked and worse.

"Einstein, with the help of Eddington, proved Newton's theory wrong by Eddington taking pictures of an eclipse in Africa. They questioned the anomaly in Newton's theory and changed history. I am just asking for a fair examination of all the evidence."

Local TEDx Coordinator Stacy Kontrabecki said a post-mortem will take place this weekend but so far the results of the mere \$275 she received from the Shelburne Cultural Council to host the event are not too dusty in terms of widespread impact of the event.

The total number of video views for all 10 speakers is 103,429. Without Vieira's, that

gists. Not one has asked to see my research or offered assistance. That is why I constantly encourage people to lose faith in institutions that clearly have self-interest as a higher priority over the truth."

Vieira, a Hull, MA native who studied economics at

UMass. and moved to Ashfield 20 years ago, says he has "studied anomalies most of my life, things that could not be explained by particular scientific disciplines."

"The more anomalies that exist in a field, that don't fit the current theories, reveal

that many of the theories are wrong," he says. "Archaeology and anthropology are exceptionally riddled with this problem and, because of the slow and meticulous nature of the profession, are the most resistant to change. Instead
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Photo by Lisa Joy Merrill Photography

Jim Vieira of Ashfield will likely reach 100,000 views on his videotaped part of the local TEDx conference by the time of this publication.

number is 6,940. The next most-watched video is that of Keith Harmon Snow from Williamsburg at 2,715, followed by Daniel Trenner from Florence at 1,182. Others fall in the 300-500-view range. Videos have been available for just two weeks.

Kontrabecki, who paid homage to Silas Lamson in her talk, noting his bent snath in her "Taste of TEDx" sculpture, added that unfortunately, responses from other local cultural councils for 2013 have been rejections to date.

About 130 people, including volunteers, attended the live event in Memorial Hall. The simulcast at Mohawk Trail Regional School saw a dozen or so people in attendance at any given time.

"We will grow this part of the conference in the future, as the school is interested in making

this part of the event a destination," Kontrabecki said. "The simulcast quality was good, so now we know we can do it with quality."

She added that the simulcast was viewed in 62 countries and 300 unique people/computers viewed the livestream at some point in the program, according to Google Analytics.

As for Vieira, he's still answering phones and e-mails, reviewing travel offers to present his findings and theories around the country.

"I honestly think that having command of the facts but being just a regular guy who is pissed off and sick of corruption and arrogance resonates with people," he said. "I have been asked to do presentations in Georgia, Utah, Texas and a Native American conference in Canada, as well as many radio interviews

around the country. I have received kind words and support from many Native scholars and tribal leaders who say what I am reporting is true and that I must be possessed with the spirits of the first ancestors because of my passion and fury.

"All in all it's been overwhelming, living in a bunker for a week answering calls and e-mails. I have been working with a group of well known researchers, some who have appeared on the History Channel and hopefully this will propel a drive for this information to be in a History Channel or PBS documentary."

View all 10 of the local TEDx talks at YouTube.com/TedxTalks.

Vieira will speak at the First Congregational Church in Ashfield on Friday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.m.

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