

March 24, 2016 Minutes

HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in the Whitney Hall Conference Room on March 24, 2016 at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance were: Marjorie Carr, Shirley Green, Celie Aufiero, Suzanne Hinman, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The February minutes were approved as written.

Organizational Housekeeping: Meredith Smith was once again elected chair of the Commission. Since she was recently elected Selectman, she will now also serve as the Selectboard representative to the Commission. It was suggested that a Vice Chair be nominated and elected for those times when Smith cannot be present. This will be done at the April meeting. No one volunteered to serve as Secretary so Smith will continue to write the minutes for the time being.

Enfield Shaker Scenic Byway: Meredith brought up the issue of the recently discovered Enfield Shaker Scenic Byway and informed the Commission that a governing board would need to be formed to be responsible for the byway. This would not include issues like picking up trash on the road; simply act as a governing body to oversee the byway. Smith mentioned that the current boundaries of the byway need to be changed to a more accurate interpretation of the Shaker presence in Enfield. Current boundaries extend from the Museum to the intersection of Routes 4 and 4A. They should reflect the areas where the Shakers lived and worked (South, Church, and North Families along Route 4A in Enfield). All voted in favor of preserving the byway with the boundaries to be changed.

Shaker National Register District: Meredith introduced the possibility of obtaining some type of signage to mark the recently discovered Shaker National Historic Register District, pointing out that this would be especially important to the Museum. All felt any signage should be on the highway, similar to other signs pointing to historic districts. Meredith will contact the DOT to inquire about signage.

Riverwalk and Park Update: Meredith gave an update on the lakefront park, now to be called Mascoma Lakeside Park. She also mentioned that Kim Quirk is interested in reviving interest in the riverwalk along the back side of properties along Main Street. This was an early vision of EVA and it is hoped that it can become a reality, calling attention to both the river and the Lakeside Park.

Research on Enfield Center Town House: Smith suggested that it might be a good plan to form a sub-committee to work on the National Historic Register application for the Enfield Center Town House. Marjorie Carr has done extensive research on the building but there are areas where assistance is needed. Meredith will ask Paul to do the narrative section of the application. She also asked Suzanne Hinman if Jeff might take the necessary photos. Suzanne will pass along the request to Jeff. Marjorie mentioned that in her research, she found that in 1888, the town removed seats from the building and in 1906 voting was moved to Whitney Hall. There is still no definitive indication of when the stage and bead board were installed but it was probably around 1909

Other Business: Suzanne brought up the sign on the side building of the new bar & grill at the Copeland Block. She felt that it appeared to be very large; perhaps larger than Enfield's current sign ordinance. The design of the sign was also discussed and that it was not in keeping with what signage in an historic district should aim to look like. Once again, the issue of design regulations came up and how in future, such unfortunate "design disasters" might be prevented. With a "Design Advisory Committee", businesses might get some assistance with issues such as signage. This will be an issue Heritage will continue to investigate.

Meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair