

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in the Whitney Hall Conference Room on July 27, 2023 at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance: Celie Aufiero, Shirley Green, Linda Jones, Madeleine Johnson, Marjorie Carr, Alice Kennedy, Selectboard representative, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The June minutes were approved as written.

Old Home Days: Meredith gave an overview report of Old Home Days. The consensus was that it had been successful, despite the weather. The events at Enfield Center “Historic Triangle” (Union Church, Schoolhouse, and Town House) were particularly successful, drawing over 40 visitors, all of whom were particularly interested in the Town House and how it might be utilized. There will be a wrap-up meeting on August 2 to discuss all the OHD events in detail; what worked well and what needs to be changed or eliminated. Meredith has also suggested that all OHD property be stored at the Town House to ensure it is kept together and not scattered all over Town as it is currently.

Shaker Museum Acquisition of La Salette Property: There was a general discussion of the Shaker Museum’s acquisition of the La Salette property which includes 5 historic Shaker built structures. All agreed that this reuniting of Shaker properties (called “Together Again” for the fund-raising drive) will be of upmost importance to Enfield, not only for historic preservation, but for future economic development with its tourism impact. Trustee and Heritage member Shirley Green stressed the need for everyone to participate in the fund-raising, however large or small their donation might be.

Preservation Forum: An enthusiastic discussion of a proposed preservation workshop, to be sponsored by the Heritage Commission and perhaps, with partner organizations, resulted in several suggestions. It is hoped the event could be held at the Enfield Shaker Museum as an all-day conference with “experts” in various fields of preservation leading the workshops. Suggested topics were paint research and advice, climate control (heating and cooling), roof repair, restoring old windows, and insulating old buildings. This list is by no means set in stone or complete. The workshop would be held in winter of 2024 (late January-February) and have a registration fee and include some type of lunch. The prospective attendees would be those with old buildings in need of some type of repair or improvement. Meredith will contact the ESM to inquire about the possibility of their hosting the event.

Historic Preservation/Heritage in Master Plan: Linda Jones reported that the August 9 meeting of the Planning Board will be discussing the preservation/heritage aspects of the Master Plan. Madeleine Johnson and Celie Aufiero will attend the meeting representing the Heritage Commission. There is some concern that the Heritage Commission has not been contacted for their input into the heritage aspects of the Master Plan. It is hoped that the Planning Board meeting on August 9 will generate interest in Heritage Commission involvement. Members of the Commission stated that the Planning Board might be reminded that the HC is an official land use board, governed by the RSAs covering such boards.

Lakeside Park Update: There was a lengthy discussion of the recent vandalism at Lakeside Park. Selectman Alice Kennedy was particularly interested in hearing suggestions of what might be done to prevent future such incidents. Several things were suggested. Overall, it seemed that security camera/s are necessary. Meredith suggested having a camera at the entrance of the park which would have a timer to activate the camera from dusk to dawn. That should dramatically cut down on the number of photos the police would have to review, since the park is supposed to be closed at those times. Other suggestions included security lights, even flashing lights with a possible siren option. A chain across the entrance to be locked at dusk and removed at dawn was ruled out due to staffing. Overall, the Commission felt it was vital to find the culprits of this vandalism and prevent any future such damage. The park is a wonderful resource for the Town and needs to be protected like all Town property.

Byway Update: There was no new information about the Byway. It is anticipated that with the Museum’s acquisition of the La Salette property, any encumbrances regarding the pedestrian path will be removed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Smith, Chair