

Enfield Heritage Commission February 28, 2019 Minutes

The February meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room and called to order at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance: Shirley Green, Celie Aufiero, Linda Jones, Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman, Meredith Smith, Chair, and guest Phil Walz, Enfield Shaker Museum. The December minutes were approved as written (no January meeting due to weather cancelation).

Mascoma Lakeside Park Update: Meredith gave an update on Mascoma Lakeside Park. The Town is working with NH DOT to resolve a few complications in the proposed deed. It is hoped that a deed transfer from the State to the Town will occur prior to Town Meeting. It was also reported that the new survey of the property indicated that the railroad house cellar hole is not on the land the Town is purchasing but within the railroad right of way. Meredith reported that in her conversation with David Trueby at NH Historic Resources, the Town will still be required to do the second archeological survey. She agreed that the issue needs to be explored further.

Discussion of Certified Local Government: There was a lively discussion of the pros and cons of Enfield participating in the Certified Local Government program. The negatives appear to be simply convincing the voters of the benefits of the program, especially the designation of Local Historic Districts as required by the CLG program. Meredith emphasized that the requirements for local historic districts need not be onerous and that Bristol, NH has a CLG in place with no outcry from the townspeople. She emphasized that Enfield can determine what would be required for a local historic district.

Preservation and Community Development in the Master Plan: It appears that there is great interest by members of the Commission in the Master Plan currently being considered for updating. The Commission expressed concern that more control should be written in to the new Master Plan that would stop buildings such as Family Dollar from being constructed and that design guidelines be in place (and enforced) that would keep new construction harmonious with a New England village appearance. Promoting historic preservation of Enfield's historic structures and landscape should also be part of the new Master Plan. It was suggested that the Commission look at other towns that have successful design guidelines in place (Meredith, NH was mentioned as one town to look at). Linda Jones will check with Andrew Cushing regarding towns that we might look to for good examples of design guidelines. Phil Walz suggested some type of organization be formed such as an Enfield Historic Preservation Partnership that could work toward preservation goals. Meredith pointed out that much of the original mission of EVA was to work toward economic revitalization through historic preservation, but the organization had moved away from the original mission in recent years.

Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway: It was noted that the Scenic Byway Advisory Board will meet next week on March 6. It was suggested that the Byway be included in the new Master Plan.

Enfield Shaker Museum Report: Phil Walz reported that the Great Stone Dwelling is already sold out for the Shaker Forum at the end of April. People wanting to make reservations for accommodations for the Forum are being referred to Shaker Farms B & B and Shaker Hill B & B. Phil also reported that the dining room of the GSD should be completely restored in time for the Forum. Preservation Wednesdays continue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair