

## Enfield Heritage Commission Minutes

February 27, 2020

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in the Whitney Hall Conference Room on February 27, 2020 at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance: Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman, Linda Jones, Shirley Green, and Meredith Smith, Chair. Excused: Mary Ann Haagen and Celie Aufiero. The January minutes were approved with one minor correction.

Town House: Meredith informed the Commission that a new RFP has been issued for work to be done to address structural issues affecting the Town House. The goal will be to stabilize the building, using the two Mooseplate grants the Town has been awarded. This work will include installing a waterproof membrane, removal of rotted structural members and replacement of new structural supports, addressing mold issues, and replacing supporting structural columns under the building. One suggested remedy for the building, filling the basement cavity with cement, was soundly rejected and has been advised against by local contractors knowledgeable in old buildings and their structural problems.

A discussion of what might be the future direction for the building resulted in general agreement that land acquisition was vital to any future use of the building. Meredith reminded the Commission that with EVA as a partner, much more can be accomplished in the way of fund raising and making the community aware of the building. She added that the EVA board was enthusiastic about working with the Heritage Commission to bring the building back to full use by the community. It was also suggested that EVA ask local residents how they would like to see the building utilized. Meredith will bring this up at the March EVA board meeting.

Mill Heritage District: Linda Jones reported that in her conversation with Town Manager Ryan Aylesworth, he encouraged her to continue to pursue the idea of forming the Mill Heritage District, perhaps with public information sessions and contacting property owners within the proposed district. Linda will work on compiling a list of property owners within the proposed district. The Commission hopes to hold a public information forum sometime in the spring.

Role of Heritage Commission: The question was posed as to what roles and responsibilities the Enfield Heritage Commission is charged with. Currently, the Commission meets monthly to discuss issues (and when appropriate, seek action) related to their mission statement. Meredith noted that in most towns with Heritage Commissions, the role includes design reviews, demolition permit reviews, and as an advisory arm to planning boards and conservation commissions. It is hoped that a more defined role for the Heritage Commission will be included in the new master plan.

Land Acquisition: There was a general discussion of the Consolidated Communications land which abuts the Police Station and Whitney Hall parking lot. All felt the Town should begin a conversation with Consolidated immediately with the goal of eventual acquisition of this property, given its proximity to two Town buildings and the possibilities it would offer for future expansion of those buildings and parking. Shirley Green agreed to bring this issue up at the next Facilities Committee meeting.

Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway: Meredith reported that Alex Belenz, UVLSRPC, is the new contact person assisting with the Byway. At a recent Byway meeting, Alex reported that we are still awaiting approval of the Byway extension. The problem seems to be the lack of an active board to approve such

extensions at the State level. The previous board was disbanded in 2018 and to date, no new board has been appointed by the Governor. Alex will follow through to try and get action with this issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair