

Enfield Heritage and Historic District Commission June 25, 2020 Minutes

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in Zoom format at 4:30 PM on June 25, 2020. Those in attendance were Shirley Green, Celie Aufiero, Marjorie Carr, Mary Ann Haagen, Linda Jones, Suzanne Hinman, Madeline Johnson, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The May minutes were approved as written.

Madeline Johnson: Commission members welcomed Madeline Johnson as a soon-to-be appointed alternate to the Commission. Each member gave a thumbnail biography of their background, as did Madeline. We are delighted to have Madeline join the Commission and welcome her writing skills as well.

Town House: It was reported that work will soon begin on stabilizing the Town House with work being done by historic building specialists, Target New England. Costs for the repairs will be covered by the two Mooseplate grants (a total of \$20,000). The question was raised as to whether the building could be used once again for functions such as the Old Home Days Dance, once the repairs have been completed. Meredith will check with Building Inspector Phil Neily.

Meredith also reported that a gift of \$1000 has been pledged for future restoration of the Town House by Judith Golden. The money will be held in a special trust fund, recently established by the Selectboard, dedicated to the restoration of the Town House. It is hoped that Ms. Golden's gift will be the start of future fund-raising efforts and help to renew interest in the building.

Meredith also informed the Commission that Andrew Cushing, head of Mascoma Valley Preservation, has suggested a charrette to be held, possibly in late summer, to focus on the future of the Town House. Historic experts, local interested citizens, and community organizations would gather and propose various possibilities for the building. Of special interest is the stage and the possibilities it offers for local theatrical productions and children's theater programs. Also of interest is a possible arts center which would include theatrical, musical, and literary offerings in addition to the visual arts. The Commission felt that it would be prudent to postpone a charrette until we no longer need to social distance. Meanwhile, we will continue to prepare and plan for a future charrette.

It was suggested that an article (or multiple articles) about the Town House, describing how the building has been used over the years with accompanying pictures, could be submitted to the Valley News to help call attention to the value of the building and its rich history. Commission members were asked to collect some stories and memories of the building that could be developed into the proposed article/s. It was suggested that Marjorie Carr ask her husband John to recall some of his memories of the building. Other Enfield Center residents will also be a source of information. It is hoped that at the July meeting, the Commission can begin to assemble some of the collected stories for the proposed article.

Whitney Hall: It was noted that an application to LCHIP for repairs to historic Whitney Hall has been submitted. If the grant application is successful, it will provide funds to renovate parts of the building such as windows, exterior trim, woodwork, and other original features of the building. It was also noted that in the renovation plans developed by Breadloaf, the stage in Whitney Hall will be removed. The historic theater drop will be hung in the proscenium arch which will remain.

Lakeside Park Update: Meredith gave a brief update on progress at Lakeside Park. A contractor has been selected and the Town is awaiting approval of the Shoreline permits from DES. Linda Jones asked if a drawing of the pavilion was available. Meredith reported that no drawing is available yet, but the architect is working on it. She also noted that several things had to be cut due to budget constraints. They include the flagpole, fire pit, and railings of the pavilion itself. It is hoped that over time, funds can be raised to provide those things.

Enfield Shaker Museum: It was noted that the Shaker Forum, originally scheduled for April, will be held in late August. There will also be an Education Committee meeting next week to begin planning for Harvest Festival.

Meeting adjourned at 6 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair