

Enfield Heritage and Historic District Commission

December 10, 2020 Minutes

The Enfield Heritage Commission met on December 10, 2020 at 4:30 PM using the Zoom format. Those in attendance: Marjorie Carr, Celie Aufiero, Suzanne Hinman, Shirley Green, Mary Ann Haagen, Linda Jones, Madeline Johnson, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The October minutes were approved as written.

Town House: The consensus of the Commission was that the Enfield Center Town House was our most important challenge and that we must continue to promote renovating the building and putting it back into use. It was agreed that we would move forward with possible grant applications (particularly LCHIP and Land and Water Conservation funds) focusing on acquisition of the surrounding land to make the building viable. Meredith will contact Andrew Cushing to explore further his conversation with Bill Gegas (LWC) concerning possible grants that would provide funding for land acquisition.

Lakeside Park Update: Meredith gave a brief update of the pavilion construction. Work seemed to have come to a standstill, but the contractor is now back on the job. She also informed the Commission of the Master Gardener intern, Pattie Fried, who will use the Lakeside Park as her Master Gardener public project. This will save considerable amounts of money, both with landscape design and actual plantings. Pattie has been added to the Lakeside Park Committee.

Duties of Heritage Commission: Since it appears to be unclear just what the duties of the Enfield Heritage Commission are at this point, Meredith suggested that a Point person needed for research following: Establishing procedures and regulations, partnering with Planning Board, and educating the public. It was noted that our neighboring Towns of Lebanon and White River Junction have extensive regulations which are strictly enforced. Linda Jones, Heritage representative to the Planning Board, agreed to research how Enfield might establish guidelines (which might lead to regulations) for the Commission. Having regulations in place would help Enfield gain Certified Local Government status as well. It was also suggested that Meredith talk to Interim Town Manager Jack Wozmak about moving forward with establishing guidelines for the Commission.

Buildings to be Demolished: It has long been a concern of the Commission that historic buildings are being torn down with no lasting photographic record. Ideally, and in most Towns with Heritage Commission, the Commission is notified when a demolition order has been issued for a building to be torn down, thus allowing for documentation prior to razing the structure. Since Linda Jones is a Planning Board member, she is the most likely person to hear of a demolition permit being issued. She has volunteered to go out and photograph the building, contacting the owner in advance for permission. However, photographs can be taken if the photographer remains on public land but as a courtesy, Linda will contact the property owner prior to taking photographs.

Master Plan: There was considerable discussion and concern that the newly formed Master Plan Committee has no representation on it for heritage and historic concerns or a strong voice for conservation. Given Enfield's two internationally recognized historic sites (Enfield Shaker Museum and La Salette Shrine) and the overall strong Shaker influence in Enfield, in addition to the Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway, this seems like an unfortunate oversight. It should also be noted that in the recent round of selections for the Seven to Save Program, ALL NH Main Street programs were included as places to save. Enfield is a Main Street Community, yet there was no representation for the Enfield Village Association (governing organization for the Main Street Program in Enfield) included in this Master Plan Committee either.

Mascoma Valley Preservation Update: Linda Jones gave a brief update of the MVP activities. A successful on-line auction was held, and they are currently interviewing timber framers for the Grafton Meetinghouse. Linda also noted that three members still want to visit the Town House. She will work on arranging a mutually convenient date. They would also like to visit the Union Church and if possible, the Center Schoolhouse.

Enfield Shaker Museum Report: Shirley Green reported that the Shaker Museum held an extraordinarily successful on-line auction.

Streets Where We Live: The Commission will introduce a new program in January highlighting a street in Enfield and how it got its name. There will be a brief paragraph in the Town Newsletter and posted on List Serve and the Town Facebook page featuring the "street of the month" and how it got its name. The January "street of the month" will be Lockhaven Road. It is hoped this program will generate interest in the history of our Town.

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair