

Enfield Heritage and Historic District Commission

March 25, 2021 Minutes

The March 25, 2021 meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held using the Zoom format. Meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance: Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman, Celie Aufiero, Shirley Green, Linda Jones, Mary Ann Haagen, Madeleine Johnson, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The February minutes were approved as written.

Lakeside Park Update: Meredith updated the Commission on the developments at Lakeside Park. There are five grant applications that have been sent out to various foundations. If successful, monies raised will go towards the necessary match for the Land and Water Conservation Grant. The pavilion is expected to be completed this spring and construction has once again commenced on the building. Meredith reiterated that parking will not be expanded at the park and that Rail Trail users will be encouraged to seek alternative parking throughout the Town.

Whitney Hall: Meredith reported that she had received a phone call from Dominic Albanese, Chair of the Library Trustees, informing her of possible Federal funds that could become available to the Town for renovations and improvements to Whitney Hall. Shirley Green spoke of the need to address the structural needs of the building and needed additional space. A vote was taken to endorse the Town to proceed to pursue possible Federal funds. The entire Commission voted in the affirmative. The vote was not an endorsement of the proposed Breadloaf plans; simply a vote to pursue possible Federal funds. It was also noted that the immediate structural problems of Whitney Hall need to be addressed as soon as possible.

Mill District: Suzanne Hinman had done considerable research in preparation for the possible establishment of a Mill Heritage District. The document was circulated to the Commission prior to the meeting to enable discussion at the meeting. Of particular interest to the NH Historic Resources, following a tour of the Town by Nadine Miller, NHDHR, had been the Mill Houses which was the focus of Suzanne's research. The Mill Houses are owned by absentee landlords and not in good condition. However, they are part of the "mill story" of how Enfield Village developed around the Baltic Mill. Suzanne's research pointed out that several of the surrounding streets, including Wells, Stevens, Union, and Pillsbury all provided housing for mill workers. Larger homes on Shaker Hill Road included the George Whitney (mill owner) House and several mill manager's houses. The recently restored Greeley House was the home of the Shaker grain mill operator. Mary Ann Haagen commented that although the Mill Houses are not in good condition, they should not be excluded from a possible Mill Heritage District as they provide an important link to the overall mill history. No decision to move forward was made at the meeting but the matter will continue to be of interest to the Commission.

Town House Discussion: Meredith reported a conversation she had with Don Wyman, Granite Northland Real Estate, regarding the possible current market value of the land surrounding the Town House. Don clarified that he is not a certified appraiser, but he would estimate (without having comparables at hand) that the property is worth in the range of \$200,000 to \$250,000. The Commission plans to move forward with submitting a letter of intent to LCHIP for funding to purchase the land, thus making the Town House a viable building for Town use.

During the discussion of the Town House, Madeleine Johnson reported on her meeting with Tammi DeFelice where they discussed possible future uses of the building. Tammi thought the building could serve a much-needed space for things like dance and music lessons, amateur theatrical productions, children's theater, and rentals to support the upkeep of the building. She noted that the Community Building is often booked, and it is not suitable for anything that might be noisy.

Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway Update: Meredith reported that Alex Belenzs is trying to arrange a time and date for the Scenic Byway Committee to meet. It was also noted that Megan Butts has been appointed as the new Executive Director of the UVLSRPC.

Mascoma Valley Preservation Update: Linda Jones reported that the MVP is negotiating to acquire another property in East Grafton, also owned by the Kimball Family. She also reported that timber framers are being interviewed to do the restoration on the Grafton Meetinghouse. The Cheever Chapel acquisition is almost complete. There will be a demolition work party on Saturday, March 27, to begin demolition work on the Meetinghouse in preparation for the restoration.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Smith, Chair