

The Enfield Heritage Commission met at the DPW building on January 27, 2023 at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance: Celie Aufiero, Erik Russell, Shirley Green, Madeleine Johnson, Marjorie Carr, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The December 8, 2022 Minutes were approved as written.

Update of January 11, 2023 Planning Board Meeting: Meredith reported on the January 11, 2023 Planning Board meeting attended by Madeleine Johnson and Meredith Smith with Andrew Cushing, representing Mascoma Valley Preservation and NH Preservation Alliance also attending as a supporter of the proposed warrant article to create a Local Historic District in Enfield Center. There was a concern that some Planning Board members did not fully understand the Local Historic District and that more education is necessary from the Heritage Commission, both for the Planning Board and the public. The Heritage Commission will embark on an education program to help people better understand what Local Historic Districts entail and, the importance and impact of historic preservation in general. The warrant article in support of the Local Historic District in Enfield Center will be on the March 2023 ballot.

Town House: There was a general discussion of the Town House and how it can be moved forward. Erik Russell suggested that one of the stumbling blocks might be concern from the public for funding repairs and land acquisition. Meredith mentioned that Lakeside Park could be an example of how a project could be funded through donations and grants. All agreed that applying for another Mooseplate grant was a good idea and that the focus for the grant should be on the front entry (steps and railings). Meredith will apply for the Mooseplate grant again with guidance from Liam Ehrenzweig, Building Inspector. It was also mentioned that Steve Patten had worked on the Town House back in the seventies when the foundation was repaired and granite from the foundation was moved to the edge of the stream. Meredith will try to get more information from Steve. Also discussed was the eventual possibility of an LCHIP grant application for land acquisition for the Town House. It was noted that the Ausbon Sargent Land Trust recently received an \$80,000 LCHIP grant for the purchase of 71 acres in Bradford, NH. Meredith also mentioned that MVP intends to become involved in assisting efforts to restore the Town House and put it back into community use.

Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway: It was noted that the application, now in Washington, DC, for a National Scenic Byway Grant for Enfield's Scenic Byway is still being considered. It is the only application selected for the Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byway grants from NH. If Enfield wins the grant, it will provide significant improvements to sidewalks on Main Street, a multi-use lane for cyclists and pedestrians between the Museum and Shakoma Beach, blinker lights at both the beach and Museum, and possible additional parking along Main Street. Meredith reminded the Commission that the application to extend the Byway remains in limbo and is currently with NH DOT awaiting a decision. She added that there is a new contact person for the Byway at UVLSRPC who is also working on moving the extension forward.

Shaker Bridge Painting: There was a general discussion of the Shaker Bridge painting which is being restored at a cost of \$1400. Members of the Commission recalled that the painting, donated by a local resident, had been brought to the Commission several years ago for their review. At the time, the painting was deemed to have no monetary or artistic value but was a piece of “local memorabilia”. It was also stated that the painting belonged to the Town and not the library. Meredith asked if the Town had a policy of gift acceptance since potential donations might present problems in the future.

Newsletter Articles: Madeleine Johnson continues to write articles related to Enfield history and historic issues for the Town’s monthly newsletter. For the February newsletter, she will write an article about the Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway. A note of thanks to Madeleine for her continued work on newsletter content!

Meeting adjourned at 5:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair