

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in the Whitney Hall Conference Room on May 25, 2023. Those in attendance: Suzanne Hinman, Linda Jones, Shirley Green, Marjorie Carr, Madeleine Johnson, and Meredith Smith, Chair. Excused: Celie Aufiero and Alice Kennedy. The April minutes were approved as written.

Old Home Days: Meredith updated the Commission on Old Home Days, stressing the need for volunteers. It was agreed that the Heritage Commission would sponsor an open house at Enfield Center Town House on Saturday, July 15, from 11 AM to 3 PM. The open house will coordinate with the Union Church open house, and it is hoped the Historical Society will also open the Center Schoolhouse. Linda Jones asked if the plans included tours of the Lockhaven Schoolhouse, as it usually is during Old Home Days. All agreed that due to the interest the schoolhouse always generates, this is an important event. Linda Jones will arrange with the Historical Society to have the building open on Sunday, July 16 from 2 to 4 PM.

NH Preservation Alliance Conference: Linda Jones reported on the NH Preservation Alliance conference she attended on May 5 in Claremont. There was a lot of useful information available in the various workshops. Linda was especially interested in the grant writing workshop.

Town House: Meredith reported that she had submitted the Letter of Intent for the Mooseplate Grant and would be following up with the full application, due June 23.

Historic House Plaques: Meredith reported that she had an email exchange with Selectman Alice Kennedy, representative to the Heritage Commission from the Selectboard. She mentioned to Alice that some time ago, the Commission tried to create interest in an historic plaque program, marking historic structures in Enfield. The program never got much interest but following the conference Meredith attended this spring where historic plaques were suggested as an excellent public education program, it seemed like a good time to revive the program. The plaque program would also be a way of calling attention to Enfield's large National Historic Register District in the village (one of the largest in NH). Meredith also suggested to Alice that a plaque program could be a joint project with EVA, similar to the historic signage on main Street that EVA and Heritage worked on several years ago. Alice expressed interest in helping to promote this idea.

Scenic Byway Update: Meredith informed the Commission that Town Manager Ed Morris is working on the details of the Scenic Byway grant, especially the issues relating to the pedestrian walkway. The grant will be a huge boost for tourism in Enfield once the work is completed.

Preservation Award: There was consensus with the Commission that an award should be given for excellence in preservation or renovation of an historic building in Enfield. This will require someone to work out details and requirements, but all agreed it was a worthwhile goal. It should be noted that this award would be different than the award given to an individual who has made an important contribution to historic preservation in Enfield.

MVP: Linda Jones gave a brief update on the work of Mascoma Valley Preservation. The elevator shaft at the Grafton Meetinghouse is under construction and the Canaan Freight Shed is being repaired with funds from a Mooseplate Grant. She added that the organization is undergoing "growing pains" and is currently working with a consultant to create best practices and strategic planning.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair