

The Enfield Heritage Commission met on February 16, 2023 at 4:30 PM at the DPW building. Those in attendance: Suzanne Hinman, Erik Russell, Celie Aufiero, Meredith Smith, Chair, and Linda Jones, via phone. Excused: Shirley Green. The January minutes were approved as written.

Proposed Warrant Article: A discussion of how to inform and educate the public about the Warrant Article to create a Local Historic District resulted in several suggestions. First, a Listserv post could inform citizens of why this article is important. Letters to the Editor was another suggestion. Finally, in addition to the letters to the editor, it was suggested that an article could be submitted to Liz Sauchelli at the Valley News. Relating the history of the three historic buildings that make up the proposed Local Historic District

Town House: Meredith discussed her idea for the Town House, that it could become an arts center for Enfield, offering classes, performances, and other cultural offerings. Those present seemed to like this idea. In planning for ways to move the Town House forward, it was agreed that the Commission would apply for another Mooseplate Grant, this time limiting it to the front entry accessibility (steps and railings). Linda reminded the Commission that a letter of intent to apply would be due in the spring. Meredith will check on dates for letter of intent and application process.

Public Education Plan: The Commission discussed ways to overcome resistance to historic preservation, noting a strong presence of historic preservation in Master Plan. The consensus was that promoting positives of preservation, economic development, tourism, and community pride would be the best approach. Also, providing real life examples of how historic preservation has worked for the benefit of all should be included. Another suggestion was to bring up questions people frequently ask and have answers for those questions.

Town House Trust Fund: Meredith mentioned that it would be a good idea to inquire about the balance in the Town House Trust Fund from the Trustees of the Trust Fund, noting that she had recently done that with the Lakeside Park Fund. Also discussed was how to build on the Town House Trust Fund. A fund raising campaign modeled on the successful Lakeside Park fund raising would be a good plan to move forward with. This will take considerable effort and planning. The first goal should be focused on land acquisition, as it was with Lakeside Park. Suzanne Hinman volunteered to discuss possible fund raising ideas with her sister, Judith Golden, also a major donor to the Town House Trust Fund.

Old Home Days: Meredith mentioned that she had not heard anything about the 2023 Old Home Days and wondered about the status of OHD. Erik will inquire about OHD at the Selectboard meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Smith, Chair