

APRIL 25, 2013 MINUTES

ENFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION

The April meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance were: Marjorie Carr, Celie Aufiero, Suzanne Hinman, Meredith Smith, Linda Jones. The February minutes were approved (there was no March meeting).

Meredith Smith expressed her concern about lack of communication from the town regarding the window project at the Enfield Center Town House, despite requests for progress updates. This led to a further discussion of the lack of acknowledgement that the Commission even exists and what it contributes to the town. Smith stated that this was a commission voted in overwhelmingly by the town and was governed under the RSAs of the State of New Hampshire. A general discussion of ways the Heritage Commission could call attention to their work and what services it provides to the town ensued. Smith pointed out that despite the fact Enfield boasts one of the largest National Historic Register Districts in the State, few people are aware of this great honor and the benefits it can provide to the town. Linda Jones suggested the possibility of a news article, describing the work and accomplishments of the commission.

Meredith Smith reported that the Depot Building (Fast Squad Building) will undergo repairs this spring and summer. She also expressed concern that despite the fact this building is very historic and is a contributing structure in the National Historic Register District, she only learned of the needed repairs while reading the Selectboard minutes on the town web site. Steve Schneider, Town Manager has assured Smith that the repairs only involve painting and minor roof repair. Again, it appears that this is another example of lack of communication with the Heritage Commission.

Smith reported on the developments at the Greeley House. Since EVA will soon lose its free office space at the Copeland Block, a new plan which would include an office and tourist information center in addition to a residential rental is being considered. The high of the Greeley House makes an ideal location for such a dual usage. A major clean-up at the house is being planned to coincide with the May 18 town-wide cleanup day.

Meredith Smith reported on the activities of the Old Home Day Committee. Activities are being planned for the weekend of July 26 through 28. This will be a combined effort of the Heritage Commission, Enfield Village Association, Enfield Shaker Museum, and the Enfield Lionesses. This year's effort will be a beginning of what is hoped to grow into a major event for the town, similar to what is done in Canaan and many other NH towns. Smith reminded the Commission that Old Home Day was a tradition started in the late 19th century by the then-governor Frank Rollins. There are well over 100 NH towns that host old home days every summer.

It was noted that the Enfield Shaker Museum has hosted an excellent series on the Shakers. Several Commission members have attended the free lecture series. The Shaker Forum will be held at the Museum this up-coming weekend of April 26 through 28, attracting visitor participants from all over the country.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair