

ENFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION
DECEMBER 5, 2013 MINUTES

The November-December meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held on December 5, 2013 in the Whitney Hall conference Room. Those in attendance were Mary Ann Haagen, Suzanne Hinman, Linda Jones, Marjorie Carr, Celie Aulfiero and Meredith Smith, Chair. The October minutes were approved pending the typo error (now corrected).

The Commission voted unanimously to nominate [name omitted pending Town Meeting Presentation] to receive the annual Preservation Award. Arrangements will be made to obtain a Shaker box from Earl Brady and get it suitably inscribed.

Meredith Smith gave a brief “reminder review” of the founding and mission of the Enfield Village Association, reminding the Commission that EVA was created to rehabilitate the downtown area of the village. EVA was created at the request of the town manager to act as a vehicle that could own, repair, and rehabilitate property. Furthermore, the organization’s charter was drawn up by the town’s attorney.

Smith gave an update on the progress of work at the Greeley House. The new goal is to have building open as soon as possible to house the EVA offices. It is anticipated this can be accomplished with funds on hand over the winter months. Further repairs and renovations to the building will be put on hold until enough money is on hand to complete the job. Smith also mentioned that there have been some negative comments surrounding the project and incorrect information circulating. She reiterated that there are NO public funds or EVA operating funds being invested in the project. She also stressed the enormous number of volunteer hours that have been put in, including many donated hours from Don Roberts.

Smith informed the commission that the Currier Shop (former Langley House) has been sold. She suggested a possible Heritage “welcome packet” giving building’s history might be given to the new owners. This would encourage historic preservation for this historically important building (eligible for National Historic Register and within the Historic District). Smith will work with Mary Ann Haagen and Marjorie Carr to prepare some information for the new owners.

Meredith Smith gave a brief review of RSA-79 (Community Tax Revitalization Program) which allows property owners to apply for a reduced property tax assessment when they rehabilitate a derelict property, keeping the tax rate low for several years after the rehabilitation is complete. She emphasized that this is a wonderful incentive to restore and renovate historic buildings.

Smith informed the Commission that three estimates have been submitted to the Town Manager to be presented to the CIP Committee for painting of the windows and bare wood at Enfield Center Town House. A discussion followed as to why this was the responsibility of the Heritage Commission (to gather the estimates) since the building is a town-owned structure. All felt that it was really the responsibility of the DPW and/or the CIP Committee, not the Heritage Commission. Also of concern was the apparent power of the CIP Committee to make such decisions. The Heritage Commission has simply been concerned about protecting the newly glazed windows at Center Hall and the possibility of losing the considerable investment in the new glazing without paint. It is hoped that the work will be done very soon.

Smith informed the Commission that planning for 2014 Old Home Days will begin in January. She also reminded everyone that additional committee members are needed. She would also like to have suggestions for possible events and activities beyond those of last year.

Smith said she is still awaiting Ms. Ryan’s decision on the historic marker. It has been two months since the last wording and research was submitted.

Shirley Green reminded everyone of the Cookie Fair at the Museum.

Meeting adjourned at 5:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Smith, Chair