

Minutes of April 23, 2009  
Enfield Heritage Commission

The monthly meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held on April 23, 2009 in the Whitney Hall Conference room. Those in attendance were: Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman, Paul Mirski, Celie Aufiero, Meredith Smith, Chair and special guest from EVA, Sharon Carr. Absent were Mary Ann Hagen and Rebecca Stewart.

The minutes of the March meeting were approved unanimously.

Meredith Smith reported on the progress being made with the National Register application. She reported that the historic researcher, Kari Laprey, has begun the task of writing descriptive paragraphs for each property. Marjorie Carr has been assisting her with filling in historical details. Very soon, the photographs (taken last spring) will be turned over to the Heritage Commission to be labeled and placed in the Mylar binders, necessary for the application process. The researcher has also requested an up-to-date property owner's list with lot numbers and addresses. Smith will ask Julie Huntley to provide this list to the researcher. Finally, Laprey told Smith that she expects the application to be completed for submission by late spring.

The main focus of this meeting was an open discussion with Sharon Carr, EVA board member and most recently, their Executive Director. The Heritage Commission would like to work with EVA in supporting their efforts towards historic preservation and renewal of the downtown area. Sharon mentioned that they are hoping to sell 78 Main Street and have an interested possible buyer. This would free up some EVA funding to renew downtown efforts. Sharon also updated the Commission on the status of the NH Main Street Program; that it is a shadow of its former self, now under the umbrella of the CDFR with less emphasis on preservation efforts. However, there is some thought towards a new direction, possibly with the NH Preservation Alliance.

The discussion resulted in several suggestions that Sharon might bring to the EVA board. Paul Mirski asked if the owner of the "Woodworks" building on Main Street could be encouraged to renew the old flourmill signage on the side of the building. Meredith Smith suggested an EVA "reunion" of old timers; people who were involved in the early days of the organization. She also recalled the first downtown clean-up days and the huge dumpster that was filled with trash collected from downtown. There was also much discussion of the past smelt fishing during the early spring. A smelt festival was suggested as a town event and fundraiser.

There was a lengthy discussion of the proposed town dock (a proposed 20 foot dock on the Mascoma River which would accommodate boats, allowing people to tie up and walk into the downtown area). Sharon Carr told the group that the project became stalled when no one could identify the actual owner of the area where the dock would be placed (the landing area of the old steamboat which sailed on Lake Mascoma). Sharon also clarified the insurance issue and that it had been worked out with the town so was no longer a stumbling block to the project. Paul Mirski suggested that EVA contact Steve Schneider and request the town attorney look into it, possibly taking the necessary land by eminent domain. All agreed that this was a worthwhile project.

Paul Mirski updated the Commission on what was happening with the Irving Noyes Academy building at Cardigan Mountain School. He related the various people who had attended the academy and how they had gone on to outstanding careers, one as Ambassador to Liberia. Paul feels it is a wonderful and exciting local story that is possibly worthy of a film.

Meredith Smith reported on the activities at the Enfield Shaker Museum. A working Elderhostel group has been there all week and a school vacation program has also been held at the Museum for local school children. The Country Life Festival will be held on June 6.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair