

April 24, 2008 Minutes, Enfield Heritage Commission

The April 24 meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference room. Those in attendance were: Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman, Mary Ann Hagen, Celie Aufeiro, Rebecca Stewart, Meredith Smith, Chair, and Steve Schneider, Town Manager. Absent was Paul Mirski.

Meredith Smith gave a report on the NH Preservation Alliance Spring Conference, noting highlights of the conference. Of particular interest was the emphasis on sustainability issues as they relate to historic preservation. Smith mentioned the dramatic statistics quoted by Emily Wadhams (from the National Trust for Historic Preservation) suggesting that new construction costs contribute even more to the overall carbon footprint than transportation costs.

Steve Schneider confirmed that Lynn Monroe (Preservation Company) had been given the go-ahead to begin work on the National Register Application. Meredith Smith said that she expected to hear from Monroe very soon, firming up a time and date when she would come to Enfield to begin the field work necessary for the application. Smith noted that she had emailed Monroe a draft map of the proposed district, created by Jim Taylor, Planning and Zoning Administrator but had not yet received a response. Smith then mentioned that Paul Mirski has suggested that the National Register Historic District be extended to Enfield Center, using the current town funding for the historic district in Enfield Village to apply for matching grant funding for an Enfield Center district. All agreed that this seemed like a good idea, as long as it would not delay the pending application in any way.

The Enfield Center Town Hall was yet again the subject of discussion. Steve Schneider mentioned the need to first find a purpose for the building before the town moves forward with any action for the building. Rebecca Stewart suggested that it was time the town had a discussion with the Muzzy family as to what the options might be. Steve Schneider agreed to put the Enfield Center Town Hall on the agenda for the next Selectboard meeting.

Suzanne Hinman gave an update from the Enfield Village Association. Flower brackets will be installed on the downtown lamp posts this spring, in time for Memorial Day as will the kiosk, adjacent to the Rail Trail parking area. The signpost at the intersection of Route 4A and Shaker Bridge, directing people to downtown businesses, will also soon be completed.

Mary Ann Hagen gave a report on activities at the Enfield Shaker Museum. She spoke of a very successful April school vacation program for local school children. The Museum hosted a Shaker Forum in early April, bringing people from all over the Northeast to Enfield for the weekend. Another working Elderhostel is presently at the Museum with participants from all over the country. Steve Schneider mentioned that the Shaker Museum will be providing craft activities at the May Easter Egg hunt (postponed from March due to snow cover).

Meredith Smith briefly noted the Jaffery Interactive Historical Database Website which was funded through the Certified Local Government Program. Enfield will be eligible for CLG funding, once the National Historic District is in place.

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair