

September 25, 2008 Minutes
Enfield Heritage Commission

The September 25 meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Town Manager's office. Those in attendance were: Suzanne Hinman, Marjorie Carr, Celie Aufiero, Rebecca Stewart, Meredith Smith, Chair, and Steven Schneider, Town Manager. Absent were Paul Mirski and Mary Ann Hagen.

Meredith Smith updated the Commission on the progress with the National Register application process. Most of the photographs have been labeled through the efforts of the Commission and volunteers. Marjorie Carr took a box of photographs, which the Commission had been unable to identify. Marjorie will attempt to identify and label these photographs.

Meredith Smith informed the Commission of email exchanges she has had with the Preservation Company. They are very involved with a project in Berlin, NH at the moment but will focus on Enfield later in October. They have suggested that volunteers could begin gathering historical data on buildings within the proposed district, including any recent updates and changes to the buildings.

A discussion of the letters, which will be sent to the property owners in the district brought up several suggestions. Meredith Smith will check with Beth Muzzey at NH Historic Resources as to wording of these letters and how resistance from property owners might be best handled. It was also suggested that a post card be sent, or even included in the tax bills, requesting any historical information the property owners might have. It was emphasized that the property owners need reassurance that by sharing their information, it will not result in raising of their property taxes.

Steve Schneider updated the Commission on the Smith Pond Dam repairs. The Shaker-built dam, which had been scheduled to be demolished in 2009 by the State of NH, is now in the process of being repaired. The two adjoining property owners are funding the dam repairs. Once repaired, the deed for the dam will be turned over to the Town of Enfield.

Suzanne Hinman told the Commission of a discussion she had with the owner of the Conant House on Main Street. The owner is anxious to find a way to repair and preserve her historic house but does not have the means to do so herself. The house is significant architecturally and certainly contributes to the historic fabric of the village. The Commission will attempt to find possible funding sources to assist the owner.

Smith reported on the various activities at the Enfield Shaker Museum. An Elderhostel is to arrive in early October for a week's stay, the annual Harvest Festival will be held October 4, and on October 16, the NH Preservation Alliance will announce its list of "Seven to Save" at the Enfield Shaker Museum.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair