

October 23, 2008 Minutes Enfield Heritage Commission

The October 23, 2008 meeting of the Enfield Heritage commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance were: Suzanne Hinman, Paul Mirski, Marjorie Carr, Celie Aufiero, Steve Schneider, Town Manager, and Meredith Smith, Chair. Absent: Rebecca Stewart & Mary Ann Hagen. Approval of the minutes from the September meeting were delayed until the next meeting as several members had not yet received them.

Meredith Smith updated the Commission on the National Register application. The photographs have been labeled and turned over to the Preservation Company for further research. Smith also reported that she had addressed the Enfield Historical Society at its October meeting, updating the group on the Register application and responding to many questions. There was general consensus that a full report on the National Register application be given at Town Meeting. It is doubtful that the work will be completed by then but Smith will present a progress report. It was also suggested that a public meeting be held before town meeting, inviting someone from NH Historic Resources or the Preservation Company to speak about the application process. Steve Schneider suggested that the Preservation Company be given a deadline to finish the project before the 2009 budget expires.

Steve Schneider reported on the work being done at the Smith Pond Dam. It is well underway with an upgrade to the dam access road. The two property owners bordering the Smith Pond are funding the cost of repairs, which are expected to be complete in 2009.

Suzanne Hinman reported that new Christmas decorations would be installed on Main Street during Thanksgiving Weekend. Meredith Smith asked Suzanne to bring up the issue of continuing the historic marker project at the next EVA Design Committee meeting. She noted that there is a list of sites already prepared which would merit a marker.

Smith reported on the Annual Meeting of the NH Preservation Alliance, which was held at the Shaker Museum, where they announced this year's "Seven To Save" winners. The Museum offered tours of the Great Stone Dwelling, which was named as one of the "Seven To Save" at last year's annual meeting.

Smith asked about the responsibilities of a Historic District Commission within an historic district, as she had read that there were RSAs requiring Commissions to review building permits within a historic district. Paul Mirski indicated that this was only if the historic district was a local one and that it would be something to avoid at all costs. As a result of this discussion, Steve Schneider suggested that Phil Neily, Building Inspector, and Jim Taylor, Planning and Zoning Administrator, be invited to the next meeting. All agreed this was a good idea and Steve will follow through and invite them.

Under new business, Paul Mirski suggested that the Commission prepare a handout for property owners, listing resources for repair and maintenance of old structures. All agreed this was an excellent idea and that the Commission should begin work on such an information resource as soon as possible. Paul also suggested that the Commission give an annual award to an Enfield resident doing outstanding work in the field of historic preservation. It was agreed that this could be done, starting with this year's town meeting. Finally, Paul put forth his idea to honor various Enfield women who have served the town over the years, perhaps by naming a bridge after them. This suggestion reached no conclusion and will be tabled for further discussion at a later date.

Meeting was adjourned at 7 PM with a reminder that the next meeting will be December 11.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Smith, Chair