

January 25, 2007 Minutes

Enfield Heritage Commission

The January 25, 2007 meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those attending: Mary Ann Haagen, Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman (alternate) and Meredith Smith, Chair.

Smith reported that petitions supporting a warrant article to add 2 members to the Heritage Commission and change the commission to include a Historic District Commission had been turned in to the Town Clerk. Many more signatures than the required 25 were gathered.

Marjorie Carr updated the Commission on the status of the Whitney Hall building and renovation project. She reported that the Facilities committee and the architects had reduced the cost of the project to (roughly) two million dollars, with the Library expecting to raise one million dollars (privately and through grants) to cover the shortfall in the necessary funding for library expansion. Carr said that the current plan calls for the new addition to be built and finished but that the connecting link to the present library would have to wait until funding was raised to complete the job.

Smith brought up the issue of demolition review ordinances, which have been a recent topic of the statewide heritage commissions' Internet information exchange. Although Enfield has a demolition permitting process in place, the Commission felt that when Enfield established a historic district, the demolition permits should be revised to include consideration for historically significant architecture.

Smith noted that the historic marker for the Copeland Block had not yet been installed. She asked Suzanne Hinman, EVA Design Committee member, to check with Sharon Carr, EVA Executive Director, as to the status of the marker.

Smith suggested to the Commission that perhaps the Commission should have an information table at Town meeting. All agreed this was a good idea. Smith will arrange to staff the table, particularly with information about historic districts.

The Commission was reminded of Helen Goodwin's up-coming presentation at the Enfield Historical Society about her Grandfather, John Goodwin, who went to the California Gold Rush, then to the Civil War, and finally back to Enfield where he became an outstanding citizen.

Mary Ann Haagen gave a brief report of activities at the Enfield Shaker Museum. The new Museum Director, Mary Boswell, and her husband, Tom, Facilities Manager, are hard at work. There are many programs planned for the up-coming season, including activities during the February school vacation week for children and their families.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair