

APRIL 26, 2007 MINUTES
ENFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION

Enfield Heritage Commission held their April meeting in the Whitney Hall Conference Room with the following attendees: Marjorie Carr, Mary Ann Haagen, Celie Aufiero, Rebecca Stewart, Selectboard Representative, Meredith Smith, Chair, and new member, Joe Mandell. Special guests included Town Manager Steve Schneider and architect & historic preservation expert, Paul Mirski.

Meredith Smith read the email from NH Division of Historic Resources regarding titles for Heritage and Historic District Commissions. Since the warrant article, passed at the March town meeting, did not request a name change for the present Heritage Commission, it will continue to be called "Heritage Commission" while assuming the duties and responsibilities of a historic district commission in addition to continuing with the duties and responsibilities of a heritage commission.

Smith has received a request from the Enfield Village Association for names of properties, sites, and features that might be noted in a walking tour brochure they plan to produce. Mary Ann Haagen and Marjorie Carr will prepare a list of properties, sites, and any other features of note, which might be of interest on a walking tour of the village. These properties will also be possible candidates for future historic markers, continuing the historic marker project EVA worked on last year.

An extensive discussion of the Enfield Center Town Hall resulted in several assignments for attendees. Steve Schneider will research any deed restrictions, which may exist on the property. He will also check into whether it might be possible to move the building to the Shaker Ball Field site in the event no other solution can be found. The question of usage of the building was also raised. Since it has a stage, the most obvious use would seem to be as a theater. Rebecca Stewart had visited the building earlier in the week and mentioned the historic theater drops appear to be in good condition. She also noted that there was a collection of Grange documents and photographs, which appeared to have historic value. Marjorie Carr said the Grange used to meet in the building but she was unsure as to whether they still existed. Rebecca agreed to check with Mrs. Farewell and find out what the status of the Grange was.

The issue of National Register status was discussed at length. Paul Mirski suggested that a better approach would be to apply for National Historic Register status for the entire village instead of working on one building at a time. Mary Ann Haagen pointed out that this had been our strategy when the Whitney Hall renovations were an issue. Since the defeat of the Whitney Hall addition and renovation at Town Meeting, the Commission no longer has that as a priority. Mirski suggested that a letter be sent to every property owner in the proposed historic district, explaining the economic advantages of such a district and any other relevant information regarding historic districts. Meredith Smith will contact the NH Historic Resource office to get the necessary paperwork to begin the application process. All agreed the Commission should proceed immediately.

Linda McKibben, Chair of the EVA Design Committee has asked the Heritage Commission to assist her committee with design guidelines to assist property owners in making good design choices when renovating their property. Paul Mirski suggested that graphics (pictures and drawings) are far more effective than written descriptions. He suggested the Commission could contact the National Trust for Historic Preservation for suggestions of other communities' design information. Smith will contact the Trust.

Mary Ann Haagen gave a brief report from the Enfield Shaker Museum. She noted that the Museum has again applied for the Save America's Treasures grant. The Museum has many activities planned for the spring and summer season including concerts, workshops, and demonstrations.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair