

May 24, 2007 Minutes

Enfield Heritage Commission

Enfield Heritage Commission held their May meeting in the Whitney Hall Conference Room with the following attendees: Marjorie Carr, Celie Aufiero, Rebecca Stewart (Selectboard Representative), Paul Mirski, and Suzanne Hinman.

In Meredith Smith's absence, Rebecca Stewart chaired the meeting. She congratulated Suzanne Hinman and Paul Mirski on their official appointments to the Enfield Heritage Commission. Joe Mandell has been appointed as alternate.

Discussion is to be tabled for future discussion on additional listings for the historic marker project. Suzanne Hinman reported on the Historic Walking Tour brochure being produced by the EVA Design Committee. The tour begins at the proposed kiosk in Depot Square, continues up Main Street to the Library/Whitney Hall, across Main Street down to the Lutheran Church, and back up to Depot Square. She is refining the text and will have it completed in the next month. The initial brochure will be a simple photocopied threefold, and if space allows some historic photographs might be included. Marjorie Carr agreed to review the text.

Rebecca Stewart reported on the Enfield Center Town House. She contacted the Grange and they reviewed the property. One stage drop at the back of the hall is theirs, while everything else belongs to the town. There is discussion to open the Town House on July 21st during the Art & Garden Tour and to display the drop, with a painted view of Mascoma Lake. There are also additional rolled drops, but their condition is unknown. Stewart suggested contacting the Hood Museum of Art for suggestions on conservation. Suzanne Hinman volunteered to contact the museum's registrar, who may also know of the Vermont organization dedicated to preserving painted drops.

According to information provided by Steven Schneider, the Enfield Center Town House could be moved if the town supported it. However, as Rebecca Stewart reported, it could not be relocated to the Shaker Recreation Fields, which can be developed only in terms of outdoor recreation.

As for the Design Guidelines requested by the EVA Design Committee, Rebecca Stewart suggested that we look at award-winning guidelines developed by Concord and Meredith for the New Hampshire Mainstreet Program. All agreed that recommendations rather than regulations would be more effective, as would visual illustrations, either photographs or line drawings. A joint project of the Design Committee and the Heritage Commission would be the most effective way to proceed, and a planning session was suggested.

A change in meeting time was discussed, but it was agreed to maintain 5:30pm at this time unless a particular need was presented.

There was no report from the Enfield Shaker Museum.

Paul Mirski reported on the work plan for nominating the Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. He suggested that the more buildings included the better, because of potential benefit to owners via the investment tax credit, which provides financial incentives to restore rather than demolish structures. It is important to make residents aware of the various tax benefits associated with an historic district. Mirski volunteered to create a map showing the potential boundaries of the district for the next meeting.

Mirski added that the application could be based on the DOT survey originally prepared by Lynn Monroe and also suggested she be hired to complete the application. We should request a proposal from her as to the kind of information required, the timing, and cost, now estimated to be approximately \$15,000. Possible sources of funding are to be discussed at the next meeting.

Under Other Business, Rebecca Stewart discussed the beautification of Whitney Hall/ theater, with the plan of painting the hall's interior and installing light sconces in place of bare bulbs. If the town purchases the paint, professional painters have agreed to donate their labor. She is looking for an appropriate wall color but would leave the trim as is. If the Moose Plate grant is received, she would like to use the funds to purchase a stage curtain and to paint the proscenium walls black. Several theater groups plan to use the facility during the year, but a dedicated electric line to the theater is a necessity. She would like to have the theater painted and the sconces installed by July 21st to be included in the Art & Garden Tour. The original color of the building's exterior was also discussed. Marjorie Carr recalled that c. 1960 the color was cream, prior that green and salmon are indicated on old picture postcards.

Marjorie Carr reported that she had been contacted several months ago by a group dedicated to planning for the 250th anniversary of the 13 Middle Land Grants, originally made July 4, 1761. The group would like one representative from each town to serve on a joint committee that will act as an advisory group to the individual towns, maintain an events calendar, and coordinate activities where towns could pool their resources. An Enfield representative has been requested, and it was suggested that EVA might be interested in participating.

Celie Aufiero indicated her concern with the town losing stone walls that are being destroyed by plowing, road widening, etc. Scenic designation has been used as a way to preserve them.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hinman