

June 28, 2007 Minutes
Enfield Heritage Commission

The June meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those attending: Marjorie Carr, Suzanne Hinman, Paul Mirski, Celie Aufiero, Town Manager Steven Schneider, and Meredith Smith, Chair.

The first order of business was the annual election of the Commission Chair. Meredith Smith was once again re-elected unanimously.

Steven Schneider pointed out that Mr. Mandel had resigned from the Commission as an alternate and a replacement was needed. The names Paul Waehler and Nils Nadeau were suggested as possible candidates.

Mr. Schneider also reported that the owner of the multi-family apartment building (74 Main Street) next to Georges Market has approached the town about the possibility of demolishing the building and re-building a new, purpose built apartment building which would be in character with the village. The Commission strongly objected to this idea, noting that the present building was a historic structure (formerly a hotel) and was itself, eligible for National Register status. Mr. Mirski said that no new building could replicate the character that the present structure offers. Mr. Mirski, a noted preservation architect, will confer with the owner in a couple of weeks about the possibilities of renovation instead of demolition.

A lengthy discussion of the work plan for the National Historic Register application process was held. Paul Mirski pointed out the tax incentives for property owners and the advantages to the town in having renovated properties, which would bring in greater property tax revenues. Smith reported that she had been in contact with Lynn Monroe, the historic researcher who prepared the DOT historic survey of 1998. Ms. Monroe has been suggested as the ideal person to prepare the application for the National Register, since she has already done much of the research necessary. She has told Smith she would be happy to prepare the application and that it would cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000. Several funding possibilities were discussed. Mr. Schneider encouraged the Commission to get a written proposal from Ms. Monroe and present it to the Budget Committee with the possibility of town funding, considering the tax advantages the Register status would ultimately bring to the town.

Meredith Smith mentioned that the EVA Design Committee was anxious to get input on design guidelines from the Commission but at the present time, the Commission was not prepared to work on this. Smith gave Suzanne Hinman, who also serves on the EVA Design Committee, several booklets from the National Trust for Historic Preservation on design guidelines for their reference.

The town properties list (properties which have been taken by the town for taxes or other acquisitions) was discussed at length. It was agreed that the Commission would study the properties in question and give their recommendations at the next meeting.

The Commission agreed that the present 5:30 time for the meetings was a good time for everyone and it would remain.

The meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Smith, Chair