

July 26, 2007 Minutes Enfield Heritage Commission

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

Meredith Smith presented the Commission with the written proposal from Lynn Monroe of the Preservation Company for the preparation of the application for placing Enfield Village on the National Historic Register. At the previous meeting of the Heritage Commission, Paul Mirski had proposed that the town should pay Lynn Monroe's fee instead of attempting the time consuming process of raising funds from a variety of sources. At this meeting, Paul reiterated the benefits of the town bearing the expense of the application process, since the greatly increased property tax revenues generated from the renovated properties will more than pay for the application preparation. He also mentioned the impressive federal tax credits (20% credit), which are available to property owners who renovate property within a National Historic Register district. Lynn Monroe had noted in her estimate that much of the labeling work would be done by volunteers, which would greatly reduce the cost of her work. The Commission asked Smith to get figures from Monroe of what her fee would be without the volunteer work. They also suggested that Smith look into case studies of other towns which had received National Register status and how it had affected their tax base.

Smith made a brief note of the Art and Garden tour on July 21, a fund raising event for EVA and the Enfield Shaker Museum. Everyone felt it was a huge success and should become an annual event.

Smith gave Steve Schneider a booklet explaining Certified Local Government Status. The Town Manager will look into the possibility of receiving this designation for Enfield.

Rebecca Stewart reported on Enfield Center Town Hall where she and Meredith Smith had visited just before the meeting. Stewart has met with April Farewell of the Grange and clarified what belongs to the Grange in the building and what belongs to the town. There are six theater drops in the building. Two belong to the Grange and four, including the hanging drop, belong to the town. Stewart is working with Steve Schneider to have a specialist conservator examine the theater drops and advise as to the best way to preserve them. A further discussion was held of how the town might acquire enough land surrounding the building to allow for well, septic, and parking. All agreed that this problem needed to be solved. However, before the town could expend funds for additional land, a viable use of the building, justifying such expenditure, was needed. The Town Manager and Rebecca Stewart will continue to work on this issue.

Suzanne Hinman presented the Commission with a mock up of the walking tour brochure she has been working on for the Enfield Village Association. All thought she had done an excellent job and thanked her for her efforts.

In closing, Meredith Smith thanked Rebecca Stewart and her husband for all their hard work in cleaning and painting the Whitney Hall Auditorium. It looks wonderful!

The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair