

MINUTES
August 10, 2006
Enfield Heritage Commission

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM in the meeting room of the Enfield Community Center. Those in attendance were: Dominic Albanese (Selectboard member representing Curtis Payne, regular Selectboard member of the Heritage Commission, excused due to illness), Marjorie Carr, Mary Ann Haagen, and Meredith Smith, Chair. Guests included Steven Schneider, Town Manager, Bart Thurber, Library Trustee, and Dan Kiley, Facilities Committee. Absent, Celie Aufiero.

Meredith Smith reported that the eight historic markers for Main Street were completed and await installation by Ken Daniels. It is hoped that the markers will be installed this month. Smith also reported that the unveiling ceremony for the State of NH historic marker at the Shaker site is scheduled for September 30. Mary Ann Haagen noted that the focus of this ceremony should be on the Shaker influence in Enfield.

The Chair gave a lengthy explanation of historic districts and benefits of historic districts. She also reported that a petition in support of the creation of a historic district commission is being circulated. The petition will request a warrant article on the 2007 Town Warrant to create a Historic District Commission, which would be added to the present Heritage Commission. Guests attending urged Smith to make sure the town was well informed of the benefits of a historic district and why it would be a positive step for Enfield

A discussion of the status of Whitney Hall's eligibility for National Historic Register status was held. Marjorie Carr noted that all the background work for the application had been done some time ago. Smith pointed out that receiving Historic Register status might provide grant funding for the proposed renovations to Whitney Hall. It was agreed that Marjorie would pursue the application with the Town Manager.

Architectural drawings of the proposed renovations and additions to Whitney Hall were presented to the Commission. Mary Ann Haagen noted she was pleased that the library would remain on Main Street. Meredith Smith urged the Facilities Committee to contact the NH Division of Historic Resources to make sure any building changes were in keeping with the historic nature of the structure. The Heritage Commission was told that the architects would be contacting the NHDHR very soon.

A brief discussion of what was meant by "cultural resources" was held. Smith noted that among the duties of the Heritage Commission it is charged with protecting Enfield's cultural resources. She also pointed out that cultural resources are very different from "recreational resources" (which are not the responsibility of the Heritage Commission).

Mary Ann Haagen reported on the many activities at the Shaker Museum. She also noted that although the mortgages and taxes had been paid, the Great Stone Dwelling was still in a very precarious position, needing extensive repairs and maintenance. She urged the Town Manager and Selectboard to restore the town's support of the Museum in the 2007 budget, noting that it was Enfield's most important historical and cultural treasure.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Meredith Smith, Chair