

OCTOBER 26, 2006 ENFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

The October meeting of the Enfield Heritage commission was held at 5:30 PM in the conference room of Whitney Hall. Those in attendance were: Mary Ann Haagen, Celie Aufiero, Meredith Smith, and special guests Suzanne Hinman and Don Wyman. Absent and excused were Curtis Payne and Marjorie Carr.

An extensive discussion was held regarding National Historic Register status for Whitney Hall and the creation of a historic district in the village with National Historic Register status. Meredith Smith reported her conversation with Christine Fonda Rankie, the person in charge of National Historic Register nominations for New Hampshire. Smith said that neither the town nor the architectural firm working on Whitney Hall renovations had contacted the state office to date. Ms. Fonda Rankie had visited Enfield in the past month and commented on the wonderful changes that were happening there. She confirmed that according to her records (supported by the DOT Survey of 1998), both Whitney Hall and the village were eligible for the National Historic Register. She acknowledged the earlier work that Marjorie Carr had referred to in previous meetings regarding the listing of Whitney Hall (done in 1993). However, it was merely a preliminary inventory. The 1998 DOT Survey would be the comprehensive starting point for any application. Ms. Fonda Rankie told Smith that she felt Whitney Hall was the natural "anchor" for a historic district in Enfield Village and both applications should certainly be pursued. It was the consensus of the Commission that we should begin the application process to get Whitney Hall placed on the National Register immediately.

Meredith Smith had reviewed an earlier study done in 1999 titled "*Downtown Enfield Revitalization Strategy*" prior to the meeting. The Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission had prepared this study for the town, prior to the establishment of EVA. What was of special interest was the first recommendation; **Create a special village overlay zoning district/and or historic district for the Main Street area.** This was of interest to the Commission, since no one from the Commission is involved in the current long range planning. The Commission asked what the procedure was to get someone from the Commission involved with the process. Ms. Smith will inquire about this issue.

A discussion of the petition to create a historic district commission and add two members to the current board is being circulated. The necessary 25 signatures have been gathered but Smith urged to Commission to try to gather at least 100 signatures. Don Wyman volunteered to gather signatures. Smith will email him a petition.

Mary Ann Haagen reported on all the exciting news from the Enfield Shaker Museum. They are hosting their third Elderhostel of the year and the Capital Fund Drive to renovate the Great Stone Dwelling was launched this past Sunday. The most exciting news from the Museum, however, is the hiring of two top-notch museum professionals. Mary Rose Boswell, a Shaker scholar and long time museum professional who has been at the Belknap Mill for the past 20 years will be coming January first. Her husband, an historic buildings specialist will also be coming to the Museum to address the many issues concerning the Museum's properties.

Suzanne Hinman reported that the Eagle Scouts will be working with the EVA Design Committee to create a community bulletin board at Huse Park. Hinman also suggested that a Cemetery Trustee be invited to one of the Commission meetings. Smith will contact Richard Henderson about this

Smith asked if EVA would be continuing the historic marker project. EVA has wondered if there are any more properties that should be identified. Mary Ann Haagen said there were many. Smith will contact Sharon Carr about continuing this project.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Meredith Smith, Chairman