

December 14, 2006

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

The November-December meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held on December 14 to accommodate the holiday schedule. Those attending: Marjorie Carr, Celie Aufiero, Mary Ann Haagen, Suzanne Hinman (alternate), Meredith Smith, and Nancy Scovner, Selectman (representing regular selectboard member, Curtis Payne, excused due to illness).

The status of the petition to include two more members and change the Heritage commission to include a historic district commission was discussed. There are now more than enough signatures to get this issue on the town warrant for 2007.

Meredith Smith reported on several conversations with Christine Fonda Rankie. Regarding Whitney Hall, Christine feels that it is the "anchor" for a historic district in the village area and should certainly be placed on the Register. The earlier application process for Whitney Hall that Marjorie Carr has referred to (1993) is far less extensive than the DOT survey. The 1993 study was simply an inventory. Finally, she reminded us that creating a historic district through the National Historic Register carries no overriding rules and regulations. It is strictly honorary. However, it carries with it the most prestige and allows application to many grant resources, which would not be available without it. Christine has offered to come to Enfield and meet with the Selectboard and/or anyone else who might be interested. I would urge the Selectmen to invite her to come as soon as possible!

The Commission agreed that the application to place Whitney Hall on the National (or State of NH) Register was a goal to work for in 2007. Smith reminded the Commission and Selectman Scovner that National Register status would not prevent such things as replacement windows or structural changes (including an addition) to Whitney Hall, providing any changes were in keeping with the original architecture of the building.

Meredith mentioned that through the Plymouth State University email exchanges with other NH heritage commissions, she has learned that most heritage and historic district commissions are directly involved with long range planning for their towns. Selectman Scovner suggested that Smith contact Jim Taylor and express her desire for Enfield's Heritage commission to have input in both long range planning and other land use issues.

Mary Ann Haagen reported that the Enfield Shaker Museum has launched its capital fund drive with a goal of one million dollars to repair the Great Stone Dwelling. She also reported that the new Museum Executive Director, Mary Boswell would start January first. Mary's husband, Tom Boswell, will be Properties Manager at the Museum. Tom has already begun an extensive inventory of repairs and maintenance needed at the site. Mary & Tom are coming to Enfield from the Belknap Mill in Laconia where they have been for the past 19 years. We are thrilled to have two such experienced museum professionals here in Enfield!

The Commission agreed that the goals for 2007 would be to add two members to the Commission and change from simply a heritage commission to a historic district commission (to include the duties and responsibilities of a heritage commission) and to begin the process of getting Whitney Hall listed on the National Historic Register.

Having no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair