

May 24, 2005 Minutes

Enfield Heritage Commission

The regular monthly meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held at Whitney Hall on May 24, 2005 (two days earlier from the scheduled May 26 date due to scheduling conflicts). All four members of the Commission were present: Mary Ann Haagan, Marjorie Carr, Nancy Scovner, and Meredith Smith.

The Commission discussed a replacement member Evelyn Palmer's vacated seat. After Nancy Scovner mentioned several people who had been asked to join but respectfully declined, Celie Aufiero's name was put forth. Since Celie was at Whitney Hall, Nancy went out and asked her if she would be willing to join the Commission. Celie agreed and her name will be brought to the Selectboard for appointment. The members of the Commission welcomed Celie's valuable conservation expertise and knowledge of the town.

The Commission held a lengthy discussion of the Smith Pond dam. Mary Ann Haagan provided valuable information regarding the Shaker history of the dam. Mary Ann pointed out that this dam powered many Shaker industries at their Enfield site, thus making it very important as an historic landmark. The state has said it is not their responsibility to repair the leaking dam and one solution might be to drain Smith Pond. Surrounding property owners (and the town) are concerned that the dam could burst at some point. Celie Aufiero mentioned a figure of \$450,000 to repair the dam. All agreed that to loose Smith Pond and the dam was not an acceptable option. Members of the Commission will attend the proposed meeting in June to help find a solution for the leaking dam.

A brief discussion of the Enfield Center Town House was held. Meredith Smith suggested Nancy Scovner look into the land the town owned land as a possible site to move the Town House to, since the present location prohibits practical use of the building. Marjorie Carr also noted that a cellar window has been knocked out and needs to be boarded up. Nancy will look into possible alternative sites for the Town House.

Meredith Smith discussed the Enfield Village Association's proposed project of marking historic properties and sites. EVA has asked the Heritage Commission to identify 6 locations on Main Street to start this project. Marjorie Carr and Mary Ann Haagan will develop a list for the next meeting.

Mary Ann Haagan gave the Commission an update of what is happening at the Shaker Museum. The Museum Board will move the Museum to the Great Stone Dwelling and begin to focus on Museum programming. The Board is not looking for a new person to lease the Inn. They will attempt to take the Museum in a different direction. Mary Ann said that although the situation is serious, it is not without hope. She also urged everyone to send in their Museum membership dues when the renewal notice comes in the next week or so. A meeting will be held this coming Sunday at the Great Stone Dwelling to discuss possible programming ideas. Meredith Smith will attend.

Due to the length of the meeting, a discussion of the draft design guidelines was tabled until the next meeting.

Meredith Smith was reelected as Chair of the Heritage commission for another year. The meeting was adjourned at 7 PM.