

August 25, 2005 Minutes

Enfield Heritage Commission

Meeting called to order at 5:30 PM with entire Commission present: Nancy Scovner, Celie Aufiero, Marjorie Carr, Mary Ann Haagan, and Meredith Smith. Minutes from June 23 meeting were approved as written.

Enfield Shaker Museum

It was noted that monthly updates of the Enfield Shaker Museum activities to the Heritage Commission would be suspended for the time being. The Museum posts its activities on their web site, which is accessible to anyone. Nancy Scovner inquired as to the success of the gourmet dinners, which the Museum is hosting on a more or less monthly basis. Mary Ann reported that the dinners have been very well received by those attending and it is hoped that they will continue.

Historic Markers

Meredith Smith reported on the historic marker project she is working on with the Enfield Village Association. The EVA board does not have funds available to pay for the markers but the Town does have some funds left in the Main Street Improvement Funds. April Whittaker has suggested the type of signage used by the Town of Bethlehem. These signs are of cast iron and very attractive. It was the consensus of the Commission that it would be better to have one or two very good quality signs (like the ones used by Bethlehem) and add to them, as funds were available, instead of cheaper and less attractive signs. Meredith will contact the Chair of the Bethlehem Historical Society to find out who made their signs.

Walking tour

Mary Ann asked if there would be a brochure or pamphlet, describing the various historic sites between the Museum and Main Street as part of the historic marker project. Meredith said she felt this was an important part of the entire project and would bring the issue to the EVA Design committee. She has several walking tour brochure examples from other communities which will be used as models for Enfield's brochure.

Enfield Center Town Hall

A lengthy discussion of the Enfield Center Town Hall was held, looking at several options for the building. The Commission would like to see the building better utilized, but in its present location, with no water, septic, or parking, it is of little use. Options discussed included possible acquisition of surrounding land to accommodate services needed, moving the building to a new location where services could be provided for, and doing nothing except making sure the building was maintained. Naturally, funding for any solution was also a concern. All felt that this was a valuable historic structure; an integral part of Enfield Center which could provide a wonderful community meeting and activity space. Finally, the Commission decided a newspaper story about the building, including the historic theater curtain, might bring some community interest and support. Nancy Scovner will contact the Valley News and the Spectator. Also, Celie Aufiero volunteered to fill out the paperwork to start the process of getting the building on the National Historic Register. The Commission hopes that bringing attention to the building will generate public interest and support, especially in Enfield Center.

Due to the length of the meeting, the discussion of design guidelines was put off until next month. However, the Commission feels that the walking tour pamphlet would be a more important project to be working on right now. Such a pamphlet would help to enhance tourism in Enfield and create community pride. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair