

JULY 24, 2014 MINUTES

ENFIELD HERITAGE COMMISSION

The July 24, 2014 meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance were Celie Aufiero, Shirley Green, Mary Ann Haagen, Marjorie Carr, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The April minutes were approved as written (no May meeting and June meeting did not have a quorum).

Marker Unveiling

Meredith Smith reviewed plans for the historic marker unveiling on Saturday, July 26. Invitations have been sent to various public officials. The ceremony will take place at 11 AM.

Railroad Bridge

Smith reviewed the email she had received from Nancy Dutton, Chair of NH Historic Advisory Council and former Director of NH Historic Resources concerning the removal of the old railroad bridge/underpass. Nancy, in her email, stated that there had been extensive documentation of the Northern Line after the 1998 DOT survey which allowed for demolition of the railroad bridge. She added that since that time, extensive surveys have been carried out which indicate the historic importance of the railroad and all bridges on the line. This has prompted DHR to reverse their decision to allow for demolition of Enfield's railroad bridge. Mary Ann Haagen said she felt it was time for the town to listen to what was being said by the Division of NH Historic Resources regarding removal of the bridge and try to establish some sort of dialogue with them. She added that there was not much value in trying to counteract the DHR position, given their research and documentation of the Northern Railroad line. Meredith Smith commented that much of the concern surrounding the possible waterfront park (and need for removal of the RR bridge) seemed to be about parking for the waterfront area of the land in question. Shirley suggested they should be doing pervious surfaces for any parking areas that might come under the Shoreline Protection Act; that it was important that the town set a good example by following the letter of the law. Mary Ann suggested that the Commission should talk to other like minded organizations to gather support for the possible park. Marjorie Carr asked where the planning board on this issue. It was decided that we should invite Scott Osgood to next meeting. Meredith will contact Scott.

Currier Shop/Langley House

Mary Ann reported that she had received a very nice response to her letter to the new owner of the Langley House; that he very much appreciated her information and gift of her book which included a section about the house. Meredith also commented that she had met the new owner in a walk past the house and the next day, once again at the Feast Ground.

Old Home Days

Meredith reported that everything was ready for Old Home Days and the marker unveiling on Saturday.

Auger House

The demolition of the historic Auger House was brought up and a discussion followed. Smith suggested that the Historic District should have some design guidelines similar to the guidelines which are in place for the TIF District. She added that most towns with historic districts have such guidelines in place and usually, someone from the heritage or historic commission sits on the planning board to be a voice for issues relating to historic districts.

Enfield Shaker Museum

Mary Ann reported that there will be a benefit concert at the Museum. Aug. 22, featuring noted musicians Ken & Brad Koldner. The proceeds will be divided between the Upper Valley Land Trust and the Museum. The musicians are being sponsored by an anonymous donor. Other activities at the Museum include AVA camp next week and Preservation Alliance coming to view the restoration of the East Brethren Shop.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair