

February 26, 2015 HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in the Whitney Hall Conference Room on February 26, 2015. Those in attendance: Suzanne Hinman, Shirley Green, Marjorie Carr, Shirley Green, Celie Aufiero, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The December minutes were approved as written with one minor edit. There was no January Heritage meeting and therefore, no January minutes.

Meredith Smith gave a review of charette held on January 23 and 24. She described the plan that the various consultants, architects, and planners had developed for lots 44 and 46 presently owned by the DOT. Meredith expressed concern that the results had not yet been posted on the town web site. Celie mentioned that she had read the last Selectboard minutes which stated Mr. Cummings wants to personally reach out to the Governor and Executive Councilor to speak with them in regards to the railroad bridge/underpass. Meredith Smith commented that according to Ms. Black at NHDHR, the bridge cannot be removed due to laws governing projects where federal funds have been used and the fact that the bridge and rail trail have been declared an historic resource.

There was a discussion of the Route 4 Design Guidelines which Ms. Smith had sent out to the Commission electronically. It appears that the Family Dollar Store did not follow the guidelines which are in place for the TIF District. It is hoped that through the experience of this very unattractive building, the town will be more vigilant in insisting that the Route 4 guidelines be followed for any future construction. Several members also commented on the fact that the big national chains like Family Dollar do nothing to feed the economy of the town, nor do they support community events.

Meredith brought up the Enfield Center Town House and the possibility of applying for a planning grant from the NH Preservation Alliance. A planning grant would assist in determining what would be needed to bring the building up to modern standards so it could be used for town activities. Meredith reported that she had spoken to Maggie Stier at the Alliance and that Maggie confirmed the Town House would be a candidate for a planning grant. First, the Town House will need to be declared eligible for either the State or National Historic Register (but not actually placed on either). All agreed to proceed with the necessary actions to apply for the grant. Marjorie Carr suggested that Meredith go to the Selectboard and inform them of what the Commission is intending to do. Meredith agreed that this would be a good idea and she will do so. In the meantime, she will contact Mary Kate Ryan at NHDHR to start the process of getting the building declared eligible for the State Historic Register.

Meredith asked the Commission how they wanted to proceed with Oral History Project that had been suggested at the December meeting. Marjorie Carr suggested working with the Historical Society as a starting point. Marjorie agreed to bring it up at the April Historical Society meeting. Meanwhile, it was suggested we could contact the Norwich person that Mary Ann Haagen had mentioned at the December meeting (Mary Ann was not at the February meeting).

Suzanne Hinman brought up the plaque program which Canaan has in place. She had a brochure describing the Canaan program. The plaques are attractive and can be purchased for \$45 by the owner of the historic property. It is limited to historic district. Everyone felt this might be a good program for Enfield's Historic District. The application process would go through the Heritage Commission and the plaque would be paid for by the property owner. It was suggested that the Commission could have a table with more information at Town Meeting. Suzanne agreed to follow up with the project and gather more information and draft an application form that could be used by the Commission. The possible table at Town Meeting was not decided upon.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair