

March 26, 2015 HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

The March 26, 2015 meeting of the Enfield Heritage Commission was held in the Whitney Hall Conference Room at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance: Linda Jones, Suzanne Hinman, Marjorie Carr, Shirley Green, Kristin Harrington, Alternate, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The February Minutes were approved as written with a minor edit.

Planning Grants: Meredith reported that she had attended the Selectboard meeting of March 23, 2015 and received approval from the Selectmen to proceed with the planning grant application for the Enfield Center Town House. She will email the necessary historic information about the building to Mary Kate Ryan to begin the process of getting the building declared eligible for National and/or State Historic Register status. *Note that the building will not have to be placed on the Register; only declared eligible.

Charrette: Meredith informed the Commission that the Economic Development Committee of EVA, chaired by Kim Quirk, will be forming a sub-committee to move the vision of the charette along to the next step. She also noted that the Selectboard had requested a survey of truck traffic on Main Street be undertaken by The Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Planning Commission. There followed a lengthy discussion of the two lots currently owned by the DOT and the reasons why the old railroad bridge cannot be removed (due to two Federal laws affecting the bridge and rail trail).

Design Guidelines: Meredith announced that there had been a change in the EVA Design Committee; that it would now be known as the "Beautification Committee", to be responsible only for things like scarecrows, Christmas decorations, and flower boxes. There was considerable discussion of the need for some form of design guidelines and what they might include. Meredith reminded everyone that they would only apply to the National Historic Register District. It was suggested that we look into Canaan's guidelines as a starting point since they are a nearby town with guidelines and an historic district. Meredith agreed to get a copy of Canaan's design guidelines for their historic district and email them to Commission members in preparation for the April meeting. She asked that everyone bring at least one suggested guideline to the meeting to begin the process of crafting some draft design guidelines for Enfield. The Commission was reminded that there is precedent for design guidelines as they already exist for the TIF District.

Also relevant to design guidelines, Meredith stated that she had long felt that Heritage should have a seat on the Planning Board as it is fairly standard procedure for most towns with Heritage Commissions. This would allow the Heritage Commission to have some input when historic buildings were affected. She also reported that she had sent a request to the Selectboard stating that they consider the up-coming vacant seat on the Planning Board be filled by a member of the Heritage Commission.

Plaque Program: Suzanne Hinman once again brought information about Canaan's historic plaque program for the Commission to consider. The plaques would be available to property owners within the historic district upon application to the Heritage Commission. They would be paid for by the property owners. The cost is \$45 per plaque. All agreed it would be a good way to call attention to the historic structures within the District. Suggestions were made to publicize the program during Old Home Days. Locations of the Greeley House, Library, and Farmer's Market were suggested as places to have information tables. Shirley Green and Linda Jones, along with Suzanne, will go to the Selectboard on May 18 to inform them of the possible plaque program.

Enfield Center Town House: Once again, the Commission discussed the Enfield Center Town House. Meredith said the Commission needed to come up with a list of possible uses for the building; that in the past, she had been told that before any money could be spent on making the building viable for regular public use (i.e. land purchase), there would have to be a demonstrated need. Kristin Harrington volunteered to survey the residents of Enfield Center informally, asking them for ideas on what they would like to see the building used for. Meredith will check with Julie Huntley regarding who owns the surrounding land abutting the Town House.

Parade Participation: Meredith suggested that the Historical Society might like to collaborate with the Heritage Commission on a float for the Old Home Days. Marjorie Carr agreed to bring it up at the April meeting of the Historical Society.

Other Business: Members of the Commission voiced concern about the electronic bingo board to be installed at the Community Building. It was noted that frequently, the large section of blank wall was used as a projection screen for slides and power point presentations. If a board were to be installed in that location, it would make visual presentations impossible.

Meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair

