

August 27, 2015 Minutes

HERITAGE COMMISSION

The Enfield Heritage Commission met in the Whitey Hall Conference room at 4:30 on August 27, 2015. Those in attendance: Marjorie Carr, Linda Jones, Shirley Green, Suzanne Hinman, Mary Ann Haagen, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The June minutes were approved as written.

Planning Grant for Enfield Center Town House Marjorie and Suzanne are working on it. Marjorie asked if we shouldn't go ahead and apply for the National Register after all the necessary paperwork was completed to show that the Enfield Center town House is eligible. The question was asked if Paul Mirski might help with the more technical parts of the application process. Meredith agreed to contact Paul. Marjorie asked if we should go ahead and begin the process of establishing an historic district in Enfield Center. Mary Ann asked if there were sources we could go to such as town reports and newspapers regarding the questions surrounding dates relevant to the Town House. The alterations and moving of the building were done in 1859. Marjorie thinks it was originally across the street from the Montcalm cemetery. She mentioned that the Town House was built in 1845 and moved in 1859 to its present location. No one seems to know when the present cinder block foundation was put in. Linda Jones brought up Andrew Cushing, a graduate student from Grafton interested in old buildings (appeared in Sunday paper article) and asked if he might assist with the historical research on the building. Linda will try to contact him.

Enfield Center Town House Meredith discussed the apparent structural damage to building. The left corner as one enters the building appears to have a spongy floor. Meredith mentioned that there was flooding from the brook during Hurricane Irene which may have affected the underpinnings of the building. Steve Schneider has asked the DPW to inspect underneath the Town House in that corner to determine the cause of the spongy floor. Meredith also mentioned that Maggie Stier of NH Preservation Alliance will be coming to Enfield on September 25 to meet with her. It is hoped that there will be some type of structural report on the Town House available for Maggie's visit.

Historic Marker Program Suzanne reported on the response from her Historic Marker flyer distribution during Old Home Days. Suzanne would like to have a sample plaque available for demonstration purposes and "talking points" when promoting the marker program. Suzanne would also like to have a good sized sign to use for promotion purposes (when attending events with an information table). Mary Ann Haagen said she has been talking to the Museum about purchasing signs that would be in harmony with the town-wide markers. The Museum has asked if the signs could be a different shape, more like a long oblong such as the signs used at Canterbury. Mary Ann will call the Maine based sign company to inquire about different sizes. Several ways to promote the marker program were discussed. The suggestions included a poster in the library and other prominent places, List Serve List Serve, a table at Hometown Holidays, and an Historical Society program.

Update from Mascoma Lake Public Access Taskforce Meredith updated to Commission on what has been happening at the two lakefront lots owned by DOT and now under town of Enfield management. She reported that a major amount of brush hogging had been done through the efforts of Bob Cusick and that Steve Schneider would be contacting Tony Booth, archeologist, regarding the next step in an archeological second survey of Lot 44. The issue of parking restrictions and power boats encroaching on the non-motorized boat meeting was also brought up.

Oral History Project Meredith asked about person from Norwich who did an oral history project. Mary Ann responded that it was Dr. Char Finer. He is an amateur photographer who did photographs of locals and then wrote something about them. Mary Ann also mentioned that another resource would be the VT Folk life Center. The little booklet that Becky Powell did for the 250th was also mentioned. It was noted that it was good to have written copy since machines that transcribe date (tapes, VHS, etc.) are constantly changing and becoming obsolete. Mary Ann suggested we could start talking to older people in Enfield Center as part of our work on getting the Town House listed on the Historic Register. All thought this would be a good way to start. Possible people suggested talking to were: Evelyn Palmer, Dot Emerson, April Farwell, John Carr, Union Church, Jimmy Proctor, and Jean Williams. Linda Jones also noted that she liked the idea of asking people about a specific thing.

The meeting adjourned at 6 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Meredith Smith, Chair