

MINUTES
LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

August 26, 2014 7:00 p.m.
LCA Meeting Room

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Adair Mulligan, vice chair; Jane Fant ; Tim Cook, alternate;
Laurie Wadsworth, alternate; Patty Jenks, selectperson
ABSENT: Rick Pond

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Chair Ray Clark.

1. Approval of Minutes Minutes from the July 29, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved. Commendation from Chair Clark appreciated by secretary!

This was a short meeting where the Commission tried to “tie up some loose ends” that we have run out of time to deal with at past meetings:

2. Summary Report Ray reported on the progress on the *Summary Report*. He has not heard back from Jeff since their last meeting, but considering that the school renovations are in their final days (and school opens in one week), we agreed that Jeff may be a little distracted by other matters right now! Laurie gave Ray a short list of additions, with photos on a flash drive, to pass on to Jeff. Ray will follow up when the time seems appropriate. Jane had completed a first draft of an Acknowledgements page, which was passed around for comments/additions.

3. Three Historically significant properties on Lyme

- 2 Shoestrap Rd: Should we nominate this for “Seven to Save,” Program of the NH Preservation Alliance? The Commission agreed that although we are concerned about the property , especially its interior, it would not be a good candidate for this program since it is for sale.
- 141 Dorchester Rd. Foreclosure auction tomorrow: Laurie agreed to try to photograph the interior if possible.
- Derby Farm on Claflin Lane : Owners plan to demolish the old building, though they may possibly re-use some of its materials. Their plans have already been approved by the Planning Board, so it is deemed too late for any action on our part.

4. Advance notification to Heritage Commission of Proposed changes to Historic Properties

This is a problem we have discussed many times, but have not yet found a solution. Our goal is to inform citizens that they own a historic property, and to offer advice about ways to preserve its integrity while keeping costs low. As has been noted before, the warrant article for the creation of a Heritage Commission, approved by voters, states that the Commission will be notified whenever changes are proposed for any historic property. Dave Robbins did notify Ray about the Derby Farm destruction, so he is trying to comply. We are grateful to him for taking the time to do this.

Again, Commissioners recognized that once a property comes before either the Planning or Zoning Boards, the owners already have an emotional and financial stake

in their decision, so it is unlikely, and unfair, to expect them to change their minds at that point. Commissioners came up with the following list of actions we ourselves can take to become informed in a timely fashion:

- Tim is on the Planning Board, and is also often at the Town Office, so as he sees historic properties on their agenda, or the ZBA's, he can inform us.
- Newspapers: Jane had seen the foreclosure notices for 141 Dorchester in the paper, for instance. All Commissioners are urged to watch for such notices and lists of property transfers. Though they are often incomplete or even inaccurate, we could at least have a heads-up so we can explore further.
- Patty offered to put an information sheet from us into the folder for each historic property in town. She noted that this is where the process usually begins: the property owner comes to the Town Office to look at the file of information about their property. That way, we can at least inform them before they make those big decisions, and offer to help them as well.
- Laurie agreed to write a first draft of a friendly document that could be individualized for each of the 200+ properties in the Historic Properties Inventory. When approved by the Heritage Commission, it could be copied onto yellow paper (so it is noticeable) for Patty to place in the front of each file.

5. East Thetford Bridge:

- Tim has been officially appointed as part of the Advisory Committee for this project by the State Highway Department. He has already been a part of one conference call, and will keep Commissioners informed of the progress.
- Adair boldly asked Jay Barrett if he would write the nomination for this bridge to the National Register of Historic Places, and he agreed. *Go Adair!* Commissioners heartily agreed that this is huge, as this process is long and involved. Jay is already familiar with it since he wrote the nomination for the Orford-Fairlee bridge. We also agreed to think of ways that we can thank him for his voluntary effort.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Wadsworth, secretary

NEXT MEETING: Sept. 23, 2014