

HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes

January 26, 2016

7:00 pm- Lyme Center Academy Building

Present: Ray Clark-chair, Adair Mulligan-vice chair, Jane Fant, Tim Cook, Patty Jenks-select board

Guest: Jay Barrett

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

2. The minutes of December 15, 2015 were approved as amended.

-Next meeting date should be January 26, 2016

-Item #6 isn't really about "endangered" properties, but more those of historical importance.

3. Jay Barrett, noted historian and author joined the meeting to follow up on a previous discussion regarding the addition of the East Thetford Bridge to the National Historic Register. He feels he has made good progress in laying the groundwork to prepare to have the bridge nominated as a historic landmark.

His Summary: In 1966, under the Lyndon Johnson administration, legislature created the National Register of Historic Places, administered by the National Park Service. Each state has its own efforts. Jay has reached out to two people he feels will be able to help facilitate a nomination. New Hampshire Historic preservationist Peter Michaud is very enthusiastic and has tried reaching Jill Edelman of the NH DOT. He hasn't heard back from her yet. Devin Colman of the Vermont Historic Society is also enthused and glad to be working with Mr. Michaud. He has reached out to Judith Ehrlich, a historic preservation officer for VTrans. In talking with Mr. Colman, Jay expressed concern about the proposed plans for the center pier of the bridge. Mr. Colman feels they might be able to help with both the nomination and facilitating an open discussion on the modifications. Conceptually, they talked about getting the bridge on the Historic Register and providing insight toward a more historically appropriate renovation. Jay observed that the State of New Hampshire has already done a considerable amount of work on documentation and planning for this renovation project. Going forward the timeline depends on the response time from the various parties involved. The nomination documents can be put together, but need to be done carefully and with everyone on board. The application process could take until summer to complete-the application is nine pages long with a couple of complex issues to address. Jay was asked if he felt contacting our state representatives/legislature might be helpful and he felt it could be. It was his opinion that if everything progressed well, the potential for having the bridge listed could happen by the end of this year. He complimented the Commission on the Summary book. Patty will send him a copy. The Commission is very appreciative of Jay's help.

4. Commission members created a list (so far) of 32 properties in town which would be interesting to obtain photos of the interiors if the owners were agreeable. Patty will take

the list; compile it and the Commission members will vote for the 10 they feel are the most historically important to the town.

5. There was a short discussion about various properties which remain at risk for one reason or another.

6. Jane Fant has submitted the 2015 Heritage Commission Annual Report to the Select Board office.

7. It was agreed that a brief description of the Heritage Commission activities and fund should be presented at Town Meeting. This will be coordinated at the February meeting.

8. Adair reported that the RPC office has two large folders containing the full National Register nomination forms for the historic districts of Lyme Plain and Lyme Center. The regional planning commission has offered to scan and copy these for us (with a small charge, undetermined). Adair advises that the materials should be sorted and organized first. Jane Fant will help her with this project.

9. Patty reported that the Zoning Administrator has equipped his computer with a flagging alert based on the folder of historic properties previously provided to him. This will enable him to easily obtain information of interest to share regarding these properties when he is researching for permits.

10. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday February 23, 2016.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Jenks-recorder pro tem