

The Enfield Heritage Commission met on September 28, 2023 at 4:30 PM in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance: Linda Jones, Marjorie Carr, Madeleine Johnson, Celie Aufiero, Shirley Green, Alice Kennedy, and Meredith Smith, Chair. The August 31, 2023 Minutes were approved as written.

Shaker Museum Acquisition of La Salette Property: A discussion was held regarding the Enfield Shaker Museum's acquisition of the La Salette property and potential uses for the site and buildings. It was noted that for at least a year, the Town will be renting the two largest buildings which will give the Museum some time to absorb the acquisition and make plans for the future. Meredith brought up the possibility of eventual National Historic Landmark designation for the site now that it is "Together Again". She pointed out that this would really put Enfield on the map and be a tremendous economic development driver. It was also suggested that publications such as Yankee Magazine and NH Profile be contacted to cover this unique story.

Preservation Forum: There was a lengthy discussion regarding the mid-winter old house/structure forum. All agreed that starting small was best. It was suggested that we focus on four topics of interest. Suggestions included restore or renovate, old house energy issues (heating, insulation, etc.), foundation repairs, and windows. Meredith pointed out that Andrew Cushing was our best "consultant" and that he had assured her that the Preservation Alliance will help with planning. Meredith will contact Andrew regarding what to focus on and which possible speakers he might suggest. There was also a brief discussion of pricing and how much people would be willing to pay for such a forum. There is no money in Heritage budget to pay speakers and this should not be considered a fund raiser. Alice Kennedy suggested involving other Town organizations. She suggested that perhaps EVA might provide mid-morning refreshments. She will bring the idea to the EVA board. All agreed that involving other Town organizations was a good idea.

Historic preservation in Master Plan: Once again the question was asked "When will Heritage become involved?" Celie explained that the consultant that Planning had hired has resigned and there is concern about meeting the Federal Grant the Town received for the planning grant. All work must be completed by July of 2024 and there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done.

MVP: Linda Jones gave a brief report on the activities of MVP. They will try to purchase the Canaan Freight Shed.

Lakeside Park Update: The question was asked as to why Lakeside Park was included in Heritage agendas. Meredith explained that Lakeside Park evolved out of Heritage, noting the wording in the Heritage mission statement states that "The Commission will properly recognize, protect, and promote the historic and esthetic resources that are significant to our community, be they natural, built, or cultural". With the NH DOT planning to sell the land that they had purchased as a place to store equipment for construction of the new Shaker Bridge, it seemed imperative that the land in question be protected in some way (protecting natural and esthetic resources). Thus, the involvement of the Heritage Commission and continuing reports on the agendas. It was also noted that the park is the entrance to one of the largest National Historic Register Districts in NH and the Mirski pavilion design focused on that District. Meredith also mentioned that considerable funds have been raised to honor Paul Mirski with a memorial grove and bench at the park which will be included in the overall landscaping plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith, Chair