

The Enfield Heritage Commission met on October 26, 2023 at 4:30 PM in the Whitney Hall Conference Room. Those in attendance: Marjorie Carr, Linda Jones, Suzanne Hinman, Madeleine Johnson, Shirley Green, Celie Aufiero, Alice Kennedy, Selectboard representative, and Meredith Smith. Madeleine Johnson, Vice Chair, chaired the meeting due to Meredith's medical condition. The minutes of September 28, 2023 were approved as written.

Shaker Museum Acquisition of La Salette Property: There was a general discussion of the importance of the Shaker Museum's acquisition of the La Salette property which includes five Shaker buildings. Meredith noted that this acquisition will put the Museum in a position to apply for possible National Historic Landmark designation. She pointed out that this would be a tremendous step forward and take some time but well worth the effort. It should be noted that NHL status is a big jump from National Historic Register status which both the Museum and La Salette property already have. The question was raised as to how Heritage might assist in this effort. Meredith will check with Carolyn Smith, Interim Museum Director, as to how Heritage might assist.

Preservation Forum: There was a general discussion of how to move the proposed preservation forum forward. Meredith reported that the Preservation Alliance is willing and eager to help but a mid-winter to early spring timeframe might be difficult to plan that quickly. A one evening (or daytime) overall discussion with a lead speaker to find out what people's interests might be as an alternative to get something started with a plan to have a full blown charette-type event, possibly in the fall of 2024. Meredith mentioned the importance of economic development in historic preservation to raise interest in the issues of preservation. Alice Kennedy wholeheartedly agreed. The Commission agreed that starting small with a single speaker event would be the best approach. Meredith will contact Andrew Cushing to start planning the late winter event and ask about available speakers.

Lutheran Church Historic Marker: Meredith gave a brief overview and history of the historic markers that had been installed on Main Street about 12 years ago through a joint effort of the Heritage Commission and EVA with a grant from the Mascoma Bank. She noted that recently, the historic marker in front of the Lutheran Church had gone missing and had been replaced by a small street number sign. In checking with Alisa Bonnette, she was told the sign had been damaged and it had been given to Harry Trumbull, EVA president to store or perhaps repair. However, in checking with Harry, he had no knowledge of the missing sign. Alice Kennedy, EVA board member and Heritage member was asked to pursue the missing sign mystery.

Historic preservation in Master Plan: Once again the topic of heritage and historic preservation in the Master Plan was discussed. Meredith noted that as far back as when Steve Schneider was Town Manager, the issue of the Master Plan had been a top priority, yet there is still not an updated Master Plan in place. Linda Jones reported on what the Planning Board had been discussing and that the consultant they had hired had resigned. The Planning Board is currently looking for a new planner. Meredith stressed the importance of historic preservation in Enfield, especially with the relevance of Shaker Museum and "Together Again" for future planning. The Commission expressed concern about the lack of communication from the Master Plan Committee as it relates to the heritage and historic issues of the Master Plan.

Enfield Shaker Village Scenic Byway: Meredith noted that she had received an email from Austin Ford at UVLSRPC regarding planning a meeting of the ESVSB Advisory Board. Given the proposed extension of the Byway and the Federal Grant Enfield has received, this is of utmost importance. Meredith will work with Austin Ford to plan a meeting of the Advisory Board as soon as possible.

Lakeside Park Update: Meredith noted that she will be asking the MLPC to investigate deed covenants to be placed on the deed for Lakeside Park, given the past history of the Town selling off donated land (Town House surrounding land) and the example of the Community Building having covenants preventing the building to be used for Town offices. She also added that communications are lacking between Town officials and the MLPC. Repeated requests for the status of the engineering for the park have not been forthcoming. This has made it difficult to know where cost estimates stand. It is hoped that at the November 1 meeting of MLPC, things will be clarified.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Meredith Smith

