

## LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

July 27, 2015            7:00 p.m.  
LCA Meeting Room

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Jane Fant, Tim Cook, Laurie Wadsworth; Patty Jenks, select person; Jane Eakin, alternate; Pat Erwin-Ploog, alternate  
ABSENT: Rick Pond, Ian Smith, Adair Mulligan, vice chair

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 by Chair Ray Clark.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the June 23 meeting were unanimously approved.
2. **Summary Report Update:** Laurie, Pat and Jane F. took orders for 22 copies at the July 4th Festivities. Patty reports that the total is \$340 so far, with 2 having been given away to the library and to a donor. Ray will use the list of donors inside the booklet as a guide for a thank you note along with their free copy. We decided to also give a copy to the Select board, the NH Preservation Alliance (**Tim** will send one to Jennifer Goodman) and to Liz Hengen (**Patty** will send one to her). Jane E. offered to use her beautiful old-fashioned looking calligraphy to inscribe any of the books.

**3. Historic Assets Fund:** No report yet.

### **4. Potential project for the Heritage Commission: *Historic Structure Report***

At the last meeting, Ray had suggested that we could offer to do a structural inventory of the Hodes barn on E. Thetford Rd. for the new owner. It would be a way for us to “get our feet wet” and possibly make a template for studying other barns around town, documenting the structure: what exists there now?

Another suggestion was to instead study the “Bunny Horton house,” from now on to be called the Judge Churchill house, at 15 Main Street. This 1850 house and attached barn may soon become the new home of the Lyme Historians, and thus could be perceived as a public service since the property will serve the citizens of Lyme. Other benefits are, before the Historians move in the house will be completely empty, thus making measuring, documenting architectural features, etc. easier to do; and the results can inform the Historians as they decide how to use the interior spaces and perhaps plan future renovations. Our work there would also be more exposed, being in the middle of town, thus creating positive publicity for the Commission. The big disadvantage to studying this house and/or barn is its size, especially as compared with the relatively small Hodes Barn.

Commissioners debated the pros and cons of studying each property as our first project. Ray suggested that before we decide, we should focus on the salient items of such a study: fenestration, chimneys, flooring, framing, etc. **Tim** and **Ray** will come up with a list of features for our next meeting. Then **Pat** will work on constructing a template. Other considerations for the Commissioners would be: the purpose of each study (for instance, education, or the basis for an easement), and also whether this service could be a source of income for the Commission.

**All members** are urged to think about all these points in preparation for our August meeting.

**5. Photo files** Ray reviewed the purposes of the photo files that we have collected, and plan to augment in the future, for each of the properties in the Inventory.

We currently have:

1. digital copies of each of the photos that Liz took for the inventory,
2. old photos contributed to most of the physical files by the Historians (most of which are also on the Historians' computer) ,
3. The Historians' 2003 Barn Inventory, but most of those photos have not yet been scanned.

The purposes are the preservation of the historical photos, and the documentation of each structure. We hope to also begin to document some interiors.

**Pat** will figure out the best way to format and catalog these.

**6. HAF/NHPA** Tim reported that Jennifer Goodman, director of the NH Preservation Alliance, has offered to attend our August meeting to listen and offer her expertise about the use of a Historic Assets Fund. Commissioners agreed that it is too early – we need to “get our legs under it” ourselves first. For now, **Tim** will ask her if she has any kind of a template we could use.

**7. Question re. taxes on 100-year old properties:** Patty reported that the assessed value of a property is determined not by age, but also by condition. Its antiquity may be a consideration, but not the main determining factor.

**8. Signage** Laurie suggested that another project for the Heritage Commission might be to get some kind of attractive signs that identify our town. She had sent around an example of a simple sign on the Common in Newbury, VT and suggested several possibilities: Two signs, one for Lyme and one for Lyme Center, or signs remarking the “borders” of the Lyme Common and Lyme Center Historic Districts. It often seems as if no one, even the residents of these districts, knows where they are. Another possibility is a small sign for some significant buildings, such as the Old Meetinghouse (present home of Stella's etc.) or sites, such as LC's Cook Hotel or Sanborn Mill. A short discussion ensued, but the lateness of the hour convinced us to continue at another meeting.

Chair Clark dismissed us at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Wadsworth, secretary

***NEXT MEETING: Tues. Aug. 25***