

Lyme Heritage Commission

October 26, 2022

MINUTES

Commission members present: Laurie Wadsworth, temporary chair & secretary, Adair Mulligan, Judy Russell, Tim Cook, Ray Clark.

Absent: Ben Kilham, Select Board rep

Guest: Steve Campbell

Welcome to newest member Judy Russell, & review of Commission's work so far

(a.) General facts:

Created by Town Meeting 2011

Uses no taxpayer funds; all privately donated coordinate with, but are completely separate from, the Lyme Historians, a private nonprofit; Heritage Commission is part of the Town government (b.) Commission's work so far:

- "Windshield Survey" (exteriors only) conducted 2011-12 of all houses in town then at least 50 years old - hired a professional architectural historian produced a color booklet copies of files in Historians office; originals & digital copies in the Town Office
- Photo documentation of these houses' interiors - about 20 done so far
- unsuccessful attempt to save 1776 Fairfield House (100 River Road)
- encouraged Planning Board to adopt a Demolition guideline
- established Historic Assets Fund
- worked with Jay Barrett to get E. Thetford Bridge listed on National Register of Historic Places
- wrote and mounted a brass plaque outside Stella's identifying the building as the Town's original meetinghouse, built c. 1781 and moved by Arthur Latham 1808

2. Houses photo'ed recently

(house interiors photoed with owner's permission, usually when it's for sale & empty, focusing on historic architectural details)

- added: 14 Franklin Hill; 353 Dorchester Rd; 62 Acorn Hill during demolition

3. Lyme Common concerns

Lyme Common Historic District (listed 1988)

Lyme Common Committee 2019 - 2020

loss of trees, proposed lined parking & one-way traffic on "backside"

- Given the Select Board's letter to us "not encouraging" this effort, decided to drop the idea of the Heritage Commission forming a new Common Committee; (A separate citizen-led initiative is forming.)

4. East Thetford Bridge - review and current status listed on National Register of Historic Places state's plan to refurbish, not replace concerns about pedestrian/ bike path & safety work slated to begin spring 2023; bridge closed 18 mo. & citizen responses

- Agreed to also drop our "formal" involvement as there is opposition to the State's plan forming on both sides of the River (a petition is being circulated); we may be asked to facilitate choice of a color, however.

5. Future work - ideas: continue photo documentation of historic houses in Lyme update Barns survey of 2000 by Lyme Historians (Tullar, McIntyre, Goldbergh) continue historic plaques: horse sheds (NH State marker?); 2 Historic Districts?

write a driving tour guide

Judy Russell will investigate making a formal agreement, in writing, with the Historians, clarifying the roles each play, sharing of information & space, etc.

6. Reluctant farewell

Acknowledging her enthusiastic work as one of the initial members, and continual energy in writing, publicity, photographing and overall cheerleading, we toasted **Adair Mulligan** with a variety of Lyme-centric gifts and glasses of delicious Berway Farm chocolate and cocoa milks! (Adair is moving out of town, so can no longer serve on this Town commission.)

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Wadsworth, secretary pro tempore