

**MINUTES - amended**  
**LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION**

December 16, 2013                      7:00 p.m.  
LCA Meeting Room

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Jane Fant, Adair Mulligan regular members; Laurie Wadsworth, alternate; Tim Cook, alternate  
ABSENT: Richard Vidal, selectperson ; Rick Pond

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of the Nov. 12, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

**2. Reactions to Liz Hengen's Presentation on Nov. 17, 2013**

Commission members agreed that the Presentation was a great success. About 60 townspeople attended. The slide show and talk were clear and informative. We all learned something! As per her contract, Liz will send us a copy of the Presentation as well as an annotated map. **Ray** will follow up with her.

We agreed that we will then have several copies made and bound, to be available for citizens at the Town Offices, library and the Historians' office. Since the cost would be prohibitive to make copies for each homeowner included in the inventory, we decided to offer a copy at cost to anyone who would like to order one. (This will be this winter, as soon as we have the original.)

**3. Article for Town Meeting**

Although Jane had crafted a draft proposal, she learned from Simon Carr that another article would be unnecessary. When the Heritage Commission was formed and adopted by Town Meeting in 2011, its charge stated that it should be consulted whenever a building permit is granted for historic properties.

**4. Publicity**

Tim reported that the Planning Board had some good suggestions for the Heritage Commission to improve public relations. We agreed that we do not want to be perceived as yet another layer of bureaucracy preventing people from making changes on their property. If we do not know about proposed changes until they come before the Planning or Zoning Boards, it's too late. We need to be proactive and offer resources and assistance from the start. Some ideas we considered include:

- > Provide information about the Heritage Commission and the inventory to each new homeowner, to be included in the packet that Patty Jenks gives out.
- > Send out a friendly letter to every owner of properties included in the 2012 inventory, informing them of how and where they can see a copy of Liz's report, and offering our assistance. **Adair** will draft the letter and distribute a draft for Commissioners review before our next meeting.
- > Somehow communicate to property owners that diminishing the historic qualities of their barns for which the Town has approved tax easement might result in also diminishing that easement
- > Provide tools and communications to Dave Robbins to help him quickly identify properties that are included in the inventory so he can notify owners immediately when they apply for a permit (as he does for wetlands, etc.) The most efficient way would be for Dave to create a GIS layer which identifies these properties.

### **5. Historic Structures Restoration**

We held further brainstorming about ways that the Heritage Commission could be of assistance to owners of historic properties, such as barns, that are a tax burden and require vigilant upkeep and repair. Many ideas were offered, such as urging owners to seek advice from the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance, and their Historic Barn Assessment Grant Program. **Jane** also agreed to consult Carl Schmidt of Orford, chair of the New Hampshire Historic Agricultural Structures Advisory Committee, about the best way to make such resources available to the citizens of Lyme.

### **6. Report for the Annual Report**

**Jane** agreed to write a half-page summary of our work in 2013 for the Town's Annual Report. She will circulate a draft to the Commission by early January.

NEXT MEETING: (resume our 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month schedule)  
**Tuesday, Jan 28, 2014 7:00 Lyme Center Academy**

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Wadsworth, secretary