

LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

MEETING – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2020

CHURCHILL-MELVIN HOUSE, Lyme Historians Office

PRESENT: John Mudge, chair; Ray Clark, Tim Cook, Adair Mulligan

ABSENT: Laurie Wadsworth, Ben Kilham

1. Minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting - approved on a motion by Tim Cook seconded by Ray Clark.
2. Signs around the Common – In Laurie's absence, Tim reported that the Lyme Common Committee has been looking at this and will soon make recommendations to the Select Board. We agreed that the Lyme Heritage Commission should also send in a comment. Ray and Tim will meet on the Common to review the map and list we had previously made (which John will share with them) and make suggestions. At the next meeting, we will discuss entry signs to be placed inside town boundaries on Route 10 North (near Orford), Route 10 South (near Hanover) and on East Thetford Road near the bridge.
3. East Thetford bridge work status – the National Register paperwork has been filed, but we are unsure of the status of our effort to get a modest pedestrian/bike lane added to the bridge. Ray will check with Jay Barrett.
4. Stella's plaque – this has arrived. Ray and Tim will install it.
5. Next house photo project – Adair suggested documenting Tish Smith's former home on Union Avenue south of the village, as the new owners are planning to raise the building and install a new foundation. Other suggestions included the Greenleaf (Dr. Cyrus Hamilton) House on the west end of the Common and houses designed by architect Don Metz, to include an interview with him.
6. Next meeting – John will send around suggested date(s) in April.

Lyme Heritage Commission

Minutes: Nov. 19, 2019

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Present: John Mudge, chair; Ray Clark, Tim Cook, Adair Mulligan, Laurie Wadsworth; Ben Kilham, Select Board representative.

Guest Betsy McCann - re bridge over Grant Brook near her house

Meeting called to order 7:05

Betsy McCann presented her concerns about old stone bridge abutments on land west of her house:

- Snowmobile club wants to use her land to put 6-8 3,000 lb. blocks cement blocks under a wooden bridge over Grant Brook that they use. Erosion on south side. Need access through her land - over her well, through her garden.
- Ownership of the land is unsure; tax map indicates UVLT owns land on south side of brook; have to know ownership, easements, state approval?
- Ray - our recommendation that we the HC supports stone abutments; we have no legal jurisdiction, but we have a role to protect historic sites. Conservation Comm. should know. DES has to know because of Grant Brook.
- Recommend Betsy contact the Town, and head of Conservation Commission to get above information.

1. Minutes of Sept. 17 approved

2. East Thetford Bridge update:

- payment for Jay Barrett: We offered \$500; Jay would like to be paid \$1500 if successful. He will draw up plans of bridge w/ pedestrian walkway, research other bridges (such as Piermont-Bradford bridge), grants, etc. Voted unanimously to approve this expenditure, out of the Historic Assets Fund.
- State still says 2022
- Parker truss - longest one in NH; John proposed a state marker for bridge; like, Bath and Bethlehem (pics provided) Commissioners supportive; approach state after work completed.
- Do our Minutes reflect a paper trail of how often this Commission has tried to bring up the issue? Laurie will research to send documentation to Jay.

4. Bridge over Grant Brook on Union Street: an issue for the Heritage Commission?

- e-mail from Joanne Theriault of NH DOT to Chair Mudge of their intent to repair streambank scour shared with Commission; also "500 ft. of Grant Brook may need to be excavated and reggraded"
- The bridge is not within Historic District, but areas of historic concern nearby: site of old mill & covered bridge just downstream (west) along the brook, down present Brook Lane.

MINUTES 11-19-19

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- thank them for informing us of their intentions & establish communication.
 - Should contact Conservation Commission. Abuts Big Rock Conservation area; John will cc both Dina and Blake Allison.
4. Bronze plaque for Old Meetinghouse (aka Stella's):
- Ray obtained written permission from Bob Coyle, as "representing the owners"
 - Adair got bids for two aluminum alternatives, but it was agreed that the bronze plaque is best
 - Motion to spend \$675 from Historic Assets Fund Seconded and approved. Adair will order it
5. Plans/suggestions for photographing more interiors?
- John put together a Snapfish photo book about Clara Livingston's house; should we do something similar with our interior photos?
 - Other possibilities :
 1. Greenleaf (Hamilton House)
 2. Betsy McCann's - Sloan Lane
 3. Grant's - Hews Lane
6. 2014 Heritage Commission's Inventory of Historical Resources
- Historians will sell for \$20 each to go toward Historic Assets Fund. Only 4 copies left.
7. More historic markers - on houses?; State - by Horse Sheds.
- possible sites: Hamilton House? Cook City?
 - if a single house: which one(s) to single out? Also, privacy issues

Other Business:

- Laurie reported some discontent from Common Planning Committee with adding another sign on the Common. (We have considered a small one identifying Lyme Common Historic District.)
- Discussion of placement of signs identifying Lyme, such as on Route 10 at Hanover and Orford town lines; also on NH side of E. Thetford Bridge; just "Lyme, est. 1761" or similar

Meeting adjourned 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Wadsworth

Next Meeting: Jan. 21, 2020

Approved 2/26/20

