

## LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

October 25, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Lyme Historians Office  
15 Main St., Lyme NH

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Tim Cook, Jane Eakin, Laurie Wadsworth; Patty Jenks, select person; Steve Rich, alternate

ABSENT: Adair Mulligan, vice chair; Pat Erwin-Ploog, alternate

Chair Clark opened the meeting at 7:04.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** With a few corrections, the Draft Minutes from the September 27 meeting were approved as amended.

### 2. **Photo documentation of Endangered or Critical Properties - our "Top Ten" Nominations**

None have been accomplished so far, but we have a process: Steve will take the photos while another Heritage member writes down identity of each photo (on laptop?) ; this document sent to Patty; Patty will make storage for the docs at the Town Office. [Perhaps a copy of these should also go to the Historians for storage in the Heritage files stored there.]

The Hewes Schoolhouse at #77 Dartmouth College Hwy. (converted into a home) was added to the list, as it has been recently sold to Brett Ryan, who has approved documentation when his tenant is not at home. He says that little if any of the remnants of the building's history as a schoolhouse remains.

### 3. **Chesley Schoolhouse**

The subdivision plat has been signed, so we are just waiting for the Deed of Gift from the State Registry of Deeds. The Historians will probably hold a small ceremony upon receipt of the deed, with an open house/ party some time after mud season in 2017.

### 4. **Fence on the Little Common**

Tim reported that the work was completed yesterday. Commissioners agreed that it makes an attractive and effective barrier from parking on the grass & mud. Two more granite posts will be installed in the spring, nearer the linden tree. Patty will notify the snow removal folks that they can no longer pile up snow there as it would break the fence.

We need to acknowledge Richard Drew, who not only contributed his labor, but also loaned his tractor. {WHO WILL DO THIS?} Doug Vogt also should be thanked.

### 4. **Revised Demolition Ordinance**

Ray had sent out a revised document to Commissioners prior to this meeting. There was some discussion about requiring the property owner to post a notification of possible demolition, but we decided that a small

sign, similar to the permit to do renovations, is not overbearing. Suggested wording changes were approved: Change “investigation” in section (d) to “research;” add an “s” to “meeting” in section (e).

Originally, the Heritage Commission was scheduled to present this to the Planning Board on Thursday, Oct. 27, however, when it was determined that neither Ray, Adair nor Laurie can attend that meeting, we should postpone to December 8. **Tim** will put us on that agenda.

#### **5. East Thetford Bridge - National Historic Register designation from NH and VT.**

Patty has sent about 15 photos to Jay Barrett. We all await the States’ responses.

#### **6. Facade Easements**

Commissioners held a lively discussion/debate about the feasibility and responsibilities of the Heritage Commission (HC) holding facade easements . The main concern is enforcement: If a future owner of a property where we hold the easement violates the agreement, how will we enforce it? If we had to hire a lawyer, who would pay for that? Another concern is that we’d be forcing this duty on future Commissioners in perpetuity. We compared the responsibilities to those for barns; however, those easements have the added teeth of property tax reduction if the facade is maintained. Another analogy is the Perpetual Care fund for the cemeteries.

Additionally, although the facade easement would be initiated only by the property owner, not imposed by the HC, there might be some misperceptions. Patty has already heard that some think the HC is trying to restrict property owners’ rights. We would have to have some sort of publicity campaign to make the intentions clear.

To help us make a decision, **Ray** agreed to contact the folks who have asked for a facade easement and probe further into what they have in mind, including any financial contribution to cover future legal expenses for enforcement.

Jane proposed a “motto” for the HC: “Helping to Save the Past for the Future.”

#### **7. Other**

As noted earlier, the former “Hewes Schoolhouse” has been sold. As usual, the HC will try to document its interior and urge the new owner to save this historic property.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Wadsworth, secretary

### **FUTURE DATES:**

**Thurs. Dec. 8:** Planning Board – Present Demolition Ordinance

**WEDNESDAY, Dec. 14** - Next regular meeting

(NO meeting in November)