

# LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

Sept. 26, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Lyme Historians Office  
15 Main St., Lyme NH

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Adair Mulligan, vice chair; Tim Cook, Laurie Wadsworth, Jane Eakin, Rusty Keith, select person

ABSENT: Steve Rich, alternate; Pat Erwin-Ploog, alternate;

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 by Vice Chair Mulligan.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** (NOTE: We did not meet in June, July or August.) Considering the May 23 Minutes, Tim noted some confusing language in #6 Historic Buildings, which was revised. The Draft Minutes were unanimously approved thus amended.
2. **Chesley Schoolhouse:** Adair reported that the Historians have taken ownership of the historic schoolhouse on Baker Hill, and indeed it will be the lead article in their upcoming fall newsletter. Laurie added that school desks, books and other artifacts have been moved in and are being inventoried. Former students will be urged to get involved in the set-up and maintenance. The Historians plan an afternoon Open House on Nov. 5 to which all Commissioners are invited to attend (with plentiful admiring “ooohs and “aaahs”).
3. **East Thetford Bridge** update : No news to report. Commissioners agreed to continue to urge the State to provide for safe crossing of the River by all by incorporating a pedestrian/bicycle path to the renovation design, perhaps along the line of the one beside the likewise historic Piermont-Bradford bridge further up the Connecticut. Laurie will send photos of that bridge after tonight’s meeting.
4. **Demolition Delay Ordinance:** The two big questions/potential problems continue to be, how can such an ordinance be enforced, and can we come up with one that will be politically acceptable. We still have not resolved how to determine to which properties the process would apply. We decided to again table the discussion until the October meeting, where we will come up with a proposal to present to the Planning Board for their input. In the meantime, Ray urged us each to re-read and edit his last draft of the ordinance.
5. **Facade Easements:** A question has arisen about whether an easement must still be followed if a structure with a facade easement burns down. Would the owners be required to rebuild a replica of the original building? We will consult other towns with Historic Districts. The unresolved issue for us now is how to fund a future enforcement of the easement. Some feel that adding, or even suggesting a fee would defeat the purpose of the Heritage Commission, which should offer its services to everyone in the Town, regardless of their ability to pay. Another possibility is to request a donation to the Historic Assets Fund, where the money would be earmarked for such future use if necessary. Adair reports that with land trusts, the national standard is that each easement be supported by the funds to enforce it. A debate about fundraising ensued. As we voted to do at our

last meeting, we will consider each case as they come before us, so the owners of #16 On the Common will be urged to present their proposal before our October 24 meeting.

6. **River Road Historic By-Way designation:** .Rusty gave us an update on progress by the Selectboard to legally require Great River Hydro, the current owners of the Wilder Dam, to follow 1920 Federal Powers Act and protect “public reservations” (public roads) as a condition of their license to operate. Ray also reported that Ross McIntyre is arranging a meeting with Nadine Miller from the State Division of Historic Resources on Oct. 9. Heritage members are invited to attend.
7. **Interior photographing:** Jane shared sheets on historic properties which are on the market. She will try to get us in two of them this week: 192 Pinnacle and 7 Market Street. If Steve is available, a tentative date for this was set for Friday, Sept. 29.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted,  
Laurie Wadsworth, secretary

**NEXT MEETING: October 24**