

# LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

Oct. 25, 2017

7:00 p.m.

Lyme Historians Office  
15 Main St., Lyme NH

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

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 by Chair Clark.

1. Approval of Minutes: (NOTE: meeting postponed one day because of the Special Town Meeting on our regular meeting date.) The Draft Minutes from the Sept. 26 were reviewed, amended, and unanimously approved as amended.
2. East Thetford Bridge - update on pedestrian walkway: Ray asked for, and unanimously received, Commissioners approval to write a letter to the State positively affirming the Lyme Heritage Commission's support of a modification of the rebuild of the historic bridge design to include a bicycle/pedestrian pathway. Several other examples on the Connecticut River were cited, such as the Orford-Fairlee and Piermont-Bradford spans, where separate such pathways do not detract from the historic appearance of the bridges. Safety issues are paramount. Selectman Keith also suggested a possible alternative of building a new bicycle-pedestrian bridge over the existing piers at the site of the former North Thetford Bridge. Walkers and cyclists, including the thousands at the annual Prouty fundraiser, would be directed to the new route and discouraged from sharing the narrow roadway of the East Thetford Bridge. Commissioners were excited to consider this new approach, and decided that it could be our fallback position if the State refuses to consider modifying their design.
3. Demolition Delay Ordinance: Tim shared the Planning Board minutes from their Oct. 12 meeting, where Dave Robbins shared his concerns about the proposed ordinance. Though supportive of the delay, Dave and the Planning Board feel that the review process should be started sooner than waiting until the applicant comes in to get a permit. Heritage Commissioners talked again about the various options before us which would accomplish our goal, as well as win the PB approval. We agreed to abandon the plan to get the ordinance proposal on the 2018 Town Warrant, but to request another meeting with the Planning Board to work collaboratively to design a solution.
4. Facade Easement : Ray brought a draft from the owner of 16 On the Common of an easement for that property, which addressed our concerns about future financial responsibility to defend it. In addition, the proposal includes language to assure that the easement is assignable. Commissioners unanimously voted to accept a facade easement on #16 On the Common, subject to the review of the final easement document.

5. River Road Historic By-Way Designation: On Oct. 9, members of the Lyme Historians, the Heritage Commission, and Ross McIntyre & Helen Whyte met with Nadine Miller from the NH Division of Historic Resources. The Historians gave a brief overview of their organization, shared about their “River Ramble” event on River Road in 2015, and gave the State folks copies of books, booklets and maps which show the historic importance of the road and its properties. Rusty shared his extensive research about the background of the dam and its impact on the riverbank and roads, and ensuing laws and agreements. Adair then escorted them on a tour of River Road, starting with the murals and National Historic Site of the Cook’s home (1811 Moses Kent House). Overall, the day was seemed a success, with positive support from DHR expected.

6. Historic District Signs - leadership needed. Laurie and Jane agreed to come up with some proposals for both Historic Districts, with possibly four signs to designate the two Historic Districts along the main roads: Route 10, and Dorchester Road . Hopefully Adair will join them, as she travels extensively through the State and may have seen some good examples for us to adapt.

7. Proposed new meeting schedule - every other month? Considering that we have heard criticism that we “hardly ever meet,” we decided to meet every month through the winter, excluding, as usual, December. The next three meeting dates are:

Nov. 28

Jan. 23

Feb. 28

There will be no meeting in December.

Reminder to all members: a quorum of three is required, but full attendance is encouraged so business can be transacted and votes taken by a majority of Commissioners.

8. Other Business: photographing interiors of historic homes. To date, the brick house at 192 Pinnacle, and the former schoolhouse at 7 Market Street had been photographed. Tim will check with Patty Jenks to ensure that the photos are being stored and labeled at the Town Office. Jane will set up dates to document Lyme’s other two brick homes that are currently for sale: “The Hermitage” at 136 Washburn Hill (built by John Sloan) and the 1818 “Converse House,” 39 Pleasant Street.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Wadsworth, secretary

Next Meeting: NOVEMBER 28

7:00 at 15 Main Street