

LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

February 28, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Lyme Historians Office
15 Main St., Lyme NH

PRESENT: Ray Clark, chair; Adair Mulligan, vice chair; Tim Cook, Laurie Wadsworth, Steve Rich, alternate; Rusty Keith, select person

ABSENT: Jane Eakin; Pat Erwin-Ploog, alternate

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 by Vice-Chair Mulligan.

1. Approval of Minutes: The Oct. 25, 2017 Minutes were approved, as amended. Adair abstained as she was not present at that meeting. The Nov. 28, 2017 Minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Signage: This sub-committee has not yet met. They will meet before the next meeting with some ideas for design and materials of signs identifying the Historic Districts, as well as a proposal for the number of signs and their placement: along Route 10 (Lyme Common H. D.) and Dorchester Road (Lyme Center H. D.).

The Signage Committee will also revisit the proposal from Michael Whitman to request a Historic Marker from the State for the Horse Sheds.

3. East Thetford Bridge: Tim has received an e-mail from Jay Barrett that he is “getting close” to achieving a historic designation from the State of NH for this bridge. Tim reviewed the State’s proposal to replace the center pier. Ray will request a response to his letter on our behalf requesting consideration of a pedestrian walkway in the final design. Tim reminded us that the choice of color will be ours, so we should start now to seriously think about that.

Tim also reported that the NH Preservation Alliance may also get involved, but Commissioners want to know if they will also support the idea of amending the historic design to include a walkway, and urge caution if we would be at cross-purposes with them. Laurie, Steve and Rusty all feel quite strongly that providing for safe crossing by pedestrians and bicycles should be a major consideration in the repair of the bridge.

4. Meeting Schedule: Ray proposed that we consider meeting regularly every other month, instead of every month, allowing for additional meetings as needed. Commissioners voted to start this schedule in April, continuing on the fourth Tuesday of every other month: April, June, Aug., Oct. and Dec. (We could decide to meet in late Nov. instead, and then in 2019 meet every other month starting in Jan., March, etc.)

5. Photographs of Historic Properties: Upon review of the list Laurie attached to last month’s Minutes, we realize that we are facing a large amount of digital photographs which need to be somehow labeled, organized, and made accessible. Additional data might be the photographs that are included with Real Estate listings, but that brings up privacy issues since we have not asked permission of those property owners. To begin to tackle these issues, we came up with these next steps :

- Adair and Steve will get together to label the photos of 100 River Road , taken before it was demolished. They will come up with some sort of labeling system to be used as a model;

- Commissioners who have photos of other Lyme properties in their own cameras or computers will burn them onto a CD (a separate CD for each property) and bring them to the Historians office to be added into the Heritage Commission's physical inventory files of each property;
- Ray will ask his brother-in-law, a professional photographer, how he organizes and labels his photos;
- Jane can find out if we can use the photos that she obtains with listings;
- Adair and Ray will look for an existing format on-line that we can adopt.

The access problem brought up the question of the purpose of this addition to our inventory.

Commissioners see their value for future property owners, and for general research about the evolving architectural styles in Lyme.

6. Other Business:

- Adair, who faithfully shares a short historical and architectural overview of several of the town's historic properties on the Lyme Listserv, asked for ideas for future "Houses of the Month." The Warren Tavern (Shoestrap) and the Cash Market and Schoolhouse properties (Market St.) were suggested.
- Ray announced, to the collective chagrin of the assembled Commissioners, that he is stepping down as Chair. He feels that after seven years, the Commission would benefit from new leadership. Members congratulated Ray on the accomplishments of those years, including the formation of the Commission, the huge project of getting an inventory of historic properties (along with the ensuing fundraising, hiring of a qualified architectural historian, actual compilation of the inventory and publication of the Summary Report) and the formation of an Historic Assets Fund. Though not yet resolved, Ray has led us through consideration of easements and a demolition delay ordinance. Fortunately for us and for the Town of Lyme, Ray agreed to continue to be a member, just not as chair.

Since no one eagerly jumped into filling such large shoes, we reviewed our own terms (below) and came up with some names of other towns people who might consider joining us. Friends or acquaintances on the Board agreed to call some of the potential "candidates."

Review of our terms, with expiration date: (Select Person's term coincides with that appointment.)

Clark 2019

Cook 2018; Tim agreed to renew

Eakin 2020

Mulligan 2020

Rich 2020

Wadsworth 2018; Laurie agreed to renew

(Ploog - expired)

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Wadsworth, Secretary

NEXT MEETING: APRIL 24