

LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION
MINUTES – August 28, 2018

PRESENT: Ray Clark, Tim Cook, Rusty Keith, John Mudge, Laurie Wadsworth, Adair Mulligan

ABSENT: Steve Rich, Jane Eakin

1. Minutes of the June meeting – amended item #3; approved unanimously as amended on a motion by John seconded by Tim.
2. Signage – Discussion continued about how to identify the two historic districts; wishing to avoid adding to the signage in and around Lyme Plain Village, it was suggested that one sign identifying Lyme, 1761 (with subtext along the lines of: Lyme Common Historic District) could replace the low granite marker near the cannon. Laurie and others had collected examples. Similarly, an attractive sign reading “Lyme 1761” could be placed on Route 10 at the town north and south boundaries. Members expressed concern about the proliferation of signage around the Common and agreed to tour the village area to develop a list of signs and locations in order to develop a plan for sign reduction and/or co-location which could be brought to a public meeting. The state has added several large new highway signs near the Church, apparently without consultation with the town. Route 10 is part of the Connecticut River Scenic Byway, designated by both the NH Dept. of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration for its scenic and historic features, which should provide a basis for addressing the visual pollution of poorly placed or excessive signage. Set Monday, September 17 at 5pm for the tour. Will meet at the Historians’ parking lot and will review lighting, electrical outlets, highway signage, possible locations for detailed historical markers, and other visual aspects of the Common.
 - a. **Rusty** will bring a large map of the Common to use for this purpose, and will ask Liz and Pat Pippin for a sketch of what they want for electrical outlets on the Common
 - b. **Adair** will take photos.
3. East Thetford Bridge – Tim, Adair, and Jay Barrett met at Adair’s office in July. Jay is close to completing the National Register nomination and asked for help editing. Tim took photographs of the bridge to accompany the nomination and gave them to Adair on a thumb drive for sorting and file naming. Tim let Jay know the photos had been taken. Discussion turned to the possibility of adding a bike/pedestrian walkway to the bridge, as was done for the similar Bradford/Piermont bridge. The state has cited cost as a reason not to pursue this amenity, which would be much used and valued. This has been proposed as a potential mitigation project related to the relicensing of Wilder Dam, as it is widely anticipated that Great River Hydro will be asked to provide funding for public benefit when the new license is issued in a year or so. **Ray** will call the state to ask whether the availability of private funds for this amenity could be accepted and used.
4. Historic Plaques – Laurie has talked briefly with Denby Coyle about placing a plaque on the original town meetinghouse (Nichols’, Stella’s, etc). There is concern that with the building for sale, its important role in the community’s history needs to be highlighted. **Laurie** will craft a proposal with a design to show Denby; this design could be adapted for use on other important buildings.
5. Commission leadership – Ray has served long and well as Commission Chair and stepped down at the March meeting. No other member has stepped forward to take his place. Agreed to rotate this responsibility, and **Laurie** volunteered to send out agendas. **John** agreed to chair the next meeting on Tuesday, October 23 at 7pm. **Ray** may bring a new member candidate to the next meeting.