

LYME HERITAGE COMMISSION

Minutes – June 22, 2022

PRESENT: Tim Cook, Ray Clark, Laurie Wadsworth, Adair Mulligan, members

ABSENT: Ben Kilham

Guest: Karen Keane

1. **Minutes of the previous meeting** – the minutes of the February meeting were approved.
2. **Membership** – The Commission may have at least 5 regular members, including a selectboard representative, and 2 alternates. The regular slots are filled, although terms expired during the pandemic. Agreed to ask Laurie to approach Steve Campbell as a possible alternate. The Commission has met through the pandemic, continued to work on heritage-related projects, and submitted a report for inclusion in the Town Report. Since staggered terms are desired, the following is proposed:
 - a. Laurie will renew for 3 years, Ray and Tim for 2 years and Adair for 1 year
 - b. Duties of the chair will rotate, with Laurie Wadsworth calling the next meeting.
 - c. Adair will draft a letter to this effect for the selectboard.
3. **Meeting location** – The Commission agreed to continue meeting at the Lyme Historians' offices in order to have access to the Heritage Commission's files and other Historians' materials. The Commission has always met at the Historians' museum, either at Lyme Village or at the Academy, as do the Cemetery Trustees when not meeting at cemeteries.
4. **Lyme Common** – The selectboard does not seem inclined to rejuvenate a dedicated committee, yet there are issues surrounding use and appearance of the Common that would benefit from public input. Given that the Lyme Common is recognized as the centerpiece of the Lyme Common Historic District by the National Register of Historic Places and by the community in general, it was agreed that the Lyme Heritage Commission would take up the function of a Lyme Common Committee, setting up an ad hoc group to advise the Commission. Karen offered to draft a charge for the group. Agreed that the Commission will meet again this summer to consider what advice to share with the selectboard beginning with issues such as parking and curbing, and then reach out to the community.
5. **Lyme/East Thetford Bridge** – The Selectboard's recent letter referred the Commission to an outdated letter from DOT. Tim noted that DOT has not explained why a walkway is not feasible. Jay Barrett believes that it is. Adair called attention to the stalemate in a recent presentation to the Connecticut River Joint Commissions. Laurie feels that because some members of the public erroneously believe that the National Register listing is preventing work on the bridge, it is not a good issue for the Commission.
6. **Fence between school and west common** – Tim reported that the fence is being damaged by snow disposal by the school custodian. He will check decision records and we will discuss at the next meeting.
7. **Photographing historic house interiors** – Laurie noted that Cynthia Bognolo's home is being worked on. She will approach Cynthia's daughter for permission to photograph the house while it is unoccupied. Adair has photographed the interiors and exteriors of the historic houses at 14 Baker Hill Road and 62 Acorn Hill Road to add to the Commission files.

Meeting adjourned 11:00am

Respectfully submitted,

Adair Mulligan