

LYNDEBOROUGH HERITAGE COMMISSION

June 25, 2013, J.A. Tarbell Library

Members present: Jessie Salisbury, Bob Rogers, Lee Mayhew, Stephanie Roper and Julie Zebuhr.

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m., with the arrival of the secretary.

There was no formal agenda.

There were no meetings in April or May for lack of a quorum.

Jessie showed copies of pictures provided by Ruth Moynihan Black: School House #5 on Pettingill Hill Road, a view of the Village from around 1915, and a view of the Gulf Trestle taken from the brook.

General discussion:

The Old House Project needs to be completed and it was agreed that the basic list will be ready for the July 30 meeting. It does not need to be complete in details. It was agreed that it is an on-going project, and a copy should be available at the town office for people to add comments, history, folk lore, etc.

Stephanie asked, should we, as a commission, make buyers of old properties aware of the history of the house and its importance?

While a property owner can pretty much do as he or she wishes, a notation in the property file might make newcomers aware of the history before they decide to demolish the property. Several historic buildings have been razed over the last few years. The loss of Hunter's Cot was particularly noted.

It was agreed that it is not just the house, but the other structures on the property that are being lost. Cellar holes, foundations, stone culverts, and stone slab bridges have been damaged or destroyed during logging operations. Those structures should be noted on maps, and brought to the attention of town officials who grant timber cutting permits. Logging companies need to be made aware of them.

Wording for such a document will be worked on.

Lee mentioned other communities that have a small marker on buildings with historic significance. That was considered a nice idea. Making the whole of the Village District into a historic/heritage area might solve some problems but would require a great deal of time and research. Such a designation would have no effect on property owners but would raise awareness of history.

The Monuments/Common Committee will be completing the design for the Village Common this fall and installing the first of the engraved bricks. The historic marker should be installed as well in preparation for the rededication of the common on Memorial Day 2014, the 100th anniversary of the common as it now exists. Work is expected to begin in September.

Jessie will contact Michael Dell'Orto in Wilton for the name of the person who made their signs. Stephanie will come up with wording for the common sign and Jessie for the railroad station sign, to be discussed at the next meeting.

Lee said the commission has to consider the proposed merger of the commission with the Historic District Commission next year. The merger will require a vote of town meeting. We need to know who will be staying, and who will be leaving. It was agreed that the Heritage Commission should retain some of the regulatory authority of the Historic District Commission, especially in regard to work on the two town halls.

Lee will begin work on wording for the required warrant article. Stephanie said she is the only member of the HDC who has, so far, agreed to continue to serve.

The change of plan for the restoration of the Center Hall will probably require another public hearing.

Stephanie said she and Scott have been researching their property, both in records and on the ground, and have found foundations, the location of the former sawmill and the location of the dam.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, June 30, 7 p.m., at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary