

Town of Sheffield Historical Commission

Meeting of June 16, 2015

Present: Dennis Sears; Chair, Patricia Elsbach, Michael King, Gay Tucker, Jeffrey Waingrow

Absent: Catherine Miller, Kathy Orlando

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 pm.

Minutes: On motion duly made and seconded (Tucker, Waingrow) it was voted to accept the minutes of April 15, 2015 after a correction ~~was~~ proposed by Chair, Dennis Sears, **was approved** The correction: under Structure of Interest **is to** remove "it" and replace with "the Commission" and insert, at the end of the sentence, "according to the Town of Sheffield's Demolition Delay By-Law". **(DDB)**

Block Grant for Housing Rehabilitation Program: Chair Sears presented a letter from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission that requested the Historical Commission "review the selected individual properties within their jurisdiction to ensure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act."

Five properties were designated by the BRPC **and** all were determined **to be** of no historical significance by Chair Sears.

Gay Tucker proposed that the SHC members read **a BRPC** letter and be prepared to discuss **a formalized process which allows the commission to act** on these letters between Commission meetings: perhaps **create an interim** review process?

Form B Progress Report and FY16 Planning: Gay met with Peter Stott **at the MACRIS headquarters** in Boston. He provided a recent GIS update of all structures within Sheffield. Those have been cross checked **with our records and indicate that more properties are on MACRIS files than we have researched, as our records only include the first 200 structures on MACRIS. Those with numbers higher than 200 do not have paper folders in our files and should be created (unless the structures were constructed less than 100 years ago), as we do not consider these to be historical at this time.**

Jeff Waingrow will have prints **made of the photos** he and Michael King **took this past year. Each includes** the address of the structure. Photos are not essential for the new Form B but will go into the SHC records.

SHC Intern: Dennis will contact BCC to verify that we will have a grant for the coming year. It was noted that Beth Anstett was helpful this past year and that it is important to have continuity. However the question was raised if the position should be publicized. No decision was recommended.

Lecture/Open House: Gay **noted that during this coming September, an** archeologist **who** was part of the English team that found the remains of King **Henry III** will be in

Egremont (to visit her sister, Sue **Bachelder**). The possibility of co-hosting a lecture **by her with the Egremont Historical Society**. was discussed.

Gay also suggested **another** Open House **be held** in the near future. She suggested we need present some updated works of the SHC to the public. One activity for the Open House could be to ask the public to bring in pictures of small historic structures, ex: smokes houses, icehouses, kilns, and corncribs.

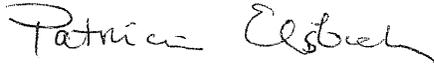
Report on Western Mass. Meeting: Dennis attended this meeting held by Chris Skelly on 5/6/15. A discussion of interest **concerned how the DDB process could be more proactive. The idea is to notify** realtors and all prospective buyers when a structure is under DDB restriction.

Another interesting story from this meeting was that ~~a part of~~ a town without a DDB had an historic home about to be demolished. The DDB permitted a 6 month delay, **during which a DDB was put into place where** building was located, **and** this same **structure was** designated a **Local** Historical District!

Next planned meeting: To be decided: Tuesday, July 28 or Wednesday, July 29th.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Elsbach, acting Clerk

