

Town of Sheffield Historical Commission Meeting of November 7, 2017

Present: Dennis Sears, Chair; Michael King, Catherine Miller, Kathy Orlando, Brad Simon, Jeffrey Waingrow

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of September 12, 2017 were approved as presented.

Berkshire Regional Planning grant applications from three (3) Sheffield properties.

1. *43 Berkshire School Road:* Upon a motion duly made and seconded (King/Miller), it was voted that based on current information this property has no cultural or historic significance (5-1-0)

On a motion duly made and seconded (Miller/King) it was voted to investigate the property and complete a Form B as there are some architectural features and potential local architect and builder involvement which should be noted if true. (6-0-0) Catherine Miller will pursue this.

It was further voted to appropriate up to \$150 for professional assistance if warranted.

2. *247 South Undermountain Road:* Upon a motion duly made and seconded (King/Simon) it was voted that the property is not an historic and/or cultural resource worth protecting. (6-0-0)
3. *890 Bow Wow Road:* Constructed circa 1814, the structure has several serious structural deficiencies. Failing support beams place it in jeopardy of collapse. On a motion duly made and seconded (Miller/Waingrow), it was voted that the structure is historically significant and that funds from BRPC are essential to the preservation of the structure. (6-0-0)

Historical Register Property Project: Michael King and Jeffrey Waingrow updated the Commission on their work to date on the abandoned lime kilns on Lime Kiln Road. Michael King presented a proposal he had prepared and submitted to the Appalachian Mountain Club on behalf of the Commission. It outlines a course of action for the restoration and preservation of the area, along with documentation regarding the history and use of the site. It is hoped the AMC and the National Parks Service will be sufficiently intrigued by the scope and far reaching historical significance of the area so as to invest in its reclamation.

Michael King sees a long range plan which (1) replicates one of the five kilns, (2) develops a viewing area for the entire site, (3) provides on-going education about the site, including the adjacent area where one battle of Shays Rebellion occurred, and (4) provides appropriate signage.

Kathy Orlando indicated that it could be of great interest to the Housatonic Heritage group and volunteered to share the information developed by Michael King with that organization.

Finally, it was suggested that the entire area, including the Goodale Quarry owned by Hamish Norton should be designated an Historic District. It was agreed that grant opportunities should be investigated in order to generate some monies to move the project forward.

In the meantime Commission members under the direction of Michael King will begin to photograph the site and specific features relevant to the quarry operation.

The next meeting will be December 5, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Catherine Miller, Clerk