

Town of Sheffield Historical Commission Meeting of January 5, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am.

Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of November 17, 2017 were approved as presented.

Historical Register Property Projects:

1. Double Chamber Smokehouse at Sheffield Historical Society: Brad Simon reported that he had begun his research and prepared photographs. He will pursue the Form B application. The smoke house was originally on the site of the Episcopal Rectory at Main and Maple. It was probably constructed by General John Fellows, the builder of the house. It was likely used by the next owner, Ensign who built and owned the Old Stone Store and sold meat. Ensign probably smoked the meat before he sold it.
2. Ceremonial Stone Landscapes: There are a number of these in the area, but the one under discussion is located on June Mountain. Dennis Sears has been in communication with a tribal preservation officer for the Stockbridge Muncie Indians regarding this CSL. The present focus is to determine on whose property it rests.
3. Lime Kiln Site on Lime Kiln Road: Michael King, along with Jeffrey Waingrow has explored the area in some detail and has met with several individuals from the National Park Service (NPS). On December 27 he met at the site with Steve Smith and Rob Bristow... In addition Richard Chilcoat, NPS Northeast Region Chief of Construction, Conservation, Training, Historic Architecture and Engineering was in the area on holiday and also met with Michael King. Also, Louis Bucceri, History Alliance Coordinator of the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area was on site.

Michael presented a draft of a letter to Steve Smith of the NPS outlining a suggested course of action relative to moving the project forward. The Commission urged Michael King to include a statement relative to site protection/preservation and mitigation of liability issues. On a motion duly made and seconded (King/Waingrow), it was voted to send the letter. (6-0-0)

The Commission also instructed Catherine Miller to talk with Lynn Wood about the potential cost of researching the site to determine ownership over time. It was the sense of the Commission that, funds being available, Ms. Wood should be engaged to do the research.

Grant Workshop: MHC will host a Grant Workshop in Williamsburg on January 11. Dennis Sears and Michael King will represent the Commission.

The subject of grants in general was explored. It was agreed that the need must be defined, the opportunities investigated and a grant writer engaged. Kathy Orlando and Catherine Miller indicated that they would identify two or three grant writers for consideration.

Covered Bridge: The Chair reported that it was announced at the most recent Selectboard meeting that the roof on the Upper Covered Bridge is in need of replacement. It is only 20 years old. Apparently consideration is being given to replacing it with a metal rood, a fact that startled the Commission. Catherine Miller volunteered to talk with the Town Administrator to get the particulars and report back to the Commission.

Budget: The FY 2019 Budget is due. The Commission will present the following to the Finance Committee for its consideration:

Deed & Property Research:	\$500
Form B Development	600
Lime Kiln Research/Video	500
Native American project	400
Grant Writer/Research	<u>300</u>
	\$2,300

The next meeting will be January 25, 2018 at 9:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.

Respectively submitted,