

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2018

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

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Minutes: Minutes of the meeting of January 5, 2018 were accepted as presented. (5-0-0)

Historical Register Properties:

Brad Simon reported that the *Double Chamber Smokehouse* on the grounds of the Sheffield Historical Society has been photographed and researched, and when he returns to town he will process a Form B.

Dennis Sears indicated that he has a letter from the Stockbridge Muncie Chair noting that the June *Mountain* *CSL* is of cultural significance and requesting that every effort be made to minimize knowledge of its location.

Michael King and Jeffrey Waingrow provided an extensive report on the *Lime Kiln* project. They shared a note (attached) from Steve Smith, a volunteer with the Appalachian Trail Management Committee that that group had Mr. Smith's proposal for the Sheffield Lime Kiln. Smith requested a capital plan of \$100,000 over a five (5) year period. This is predicated on funding being available.

Michael met with Tom Ingersoll on the site to discuss a tree removal plan. Given the complexity of the vegetation, including trees within proximity of the site elements, removal require professional expertise and not volunteer labor.

Smith has asked that the Historical Commission not submit any letters or proposals to any individual or group as the ATC and NPS have processes and procedures they follow. This came as a blow to the Commission as a good amount of time and energy had been invested to date by Messrs. King and Waingrow with the thought that the Commission would be a partner in the project.

After much discussion it was decided that the Commission would continue to work on the Lime Kiln project from a different perspective. To that end the following were decided:

- (1) Michael King and Paul O'Brien will video an interview with Art Batacchi, Sr. regarding his recollections about aspects of the kiln's operation
- (2) Catherine Miller will contact Lynn Wood and engage her services to research the ownership of the property. On a motion duly made and seconded (Miller/King) it was voted to appropriate up to \$400 (10 hrs. @ \$40/hr.) for this research. (6-0-0)
- (3) Dennis Sears will contact Bernard Drew to ascertain his interest in researching and writing about the lime kiln industry in the area.
- (4) On a motion duly made and seconded (Miller/King), it was voted to expedite the process to designate the lime kiln on Lime Kiln Road as a historic site. (6-0-0)
- (5) Brad Simon will draft a letter to Steve Smith and copy other relevant persons regarding the role of the Historical Commission in historic preservation and express the Commission's belief that it has some role to play in the development of the site.

Historic Trail Markers:

Jeffrey Waingrow suggested that the Commission consider establishing a trail with markers to illustrate the economic impact of the marble and lime business on the area.

Massachusetts Historical Commission Grants:

Dennis Sears and Michael King attended a seminar on grants which seem to be principally for capital projects. The application deadline is March 24, 2018. Since the Commission has no projects for which such funds would apply, it was determined to pass it by for the present.

Sheffield's Covered Bridge:

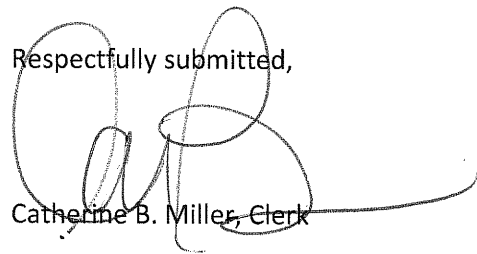
A design error in the reproduction of the covered bridge twenty years ago now necessitates the installation of a new roof. The original contractor has recommended to the Select board a metal roof, an approach that is being taken with the covered bridges in Vermont. The cost for metal and cedar shake is similar, but the live expectancy of a metal roof is quite a bit longer.

On motion duly made and seconded (Miller/Orlando), it was voted to go on record as favoring a wooden roof over a metal roof in order to preserve the historic look of the bridge. (6-0-0) Dennis Sears will talk with the Town Administrator to determine if there is any way to return to the Massachusetts Historical Commission for some funding since the abutments are historical, dating back to the mid 1800's.

The next meeting will be 9:00 am on March 8, 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'C. Miller', written over the printed name.

Catherine B. Miller, Clerk