

**HISTORIC DISTRICT/HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2006**

Present: M. Crisler; C.Pynn; M.Stoltz

Moment of silence for the loss of our good friend and fellow member Tom Furlong

Meeting called to order at 4:15 pm

Motion to approve minutes of January 18, 2006 by M.Crisler, second by C. Pynn.

Minutes accepted.

- **London Bridge Road causeway update.**
 1. The structure has been declared eligible for the National Register and only needs to be nominated. The inventory form already prepared by Preservation Company would also serve as the nomination form for the State Register. The nomination request and consent must be signed by the owner (listed as the town of Windham). The state has a standard letter that they send to owners. The Commission must request the paperwork from NHDHR. C.Pynn will request this. The causeway has also generated national interest as noted below.
 2. National Park Service in Washington, DC would like to document the site along with America's Stonehenge in Salem. The NPS feels this is an excellent candidate for the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS).
 3. Eric DeLony, noted bridge preservationist and former chief of American Engineering Record at NPS would also like to document the structure.
 4. Letter has been sent to Richard Roach of the ACOE asking that the Commission be a consulting party for the avoidance decision.

- **Village Center District** (parcel 11-A-/250) owner Ron Clapp has been contacted by phone and letter regarding possibility of preservation of this National Register eligible property. The cabin is saddle notch construction and was built in 1929+.
- **Indian Rock:** Marc Laurin of the DOT sent the Commission a map of the proposed Rt 111 project and Indian Rock will not be impacted.
- Letter sent to Fire Chief McPherson requesting notification to the Commission when a older building is to be used for fire training so that documentation can be done. (2-1-06). Cc to Planning Board
- Letter to BOS requesting that the Commission be kept informed regarding parking and landscaping plans at the Haseltine House across from Griffin Park. Cc to Planning Board.
- **Corridor Management:** a workshop has been scheduled with the Planning Board for March 22 to discuss the history and reuse of the seven historic houses in the Village Center District.
- **Searles Tower Gate House:** Mary Weaver presented an information packet, pictures and drawings of lot lines of the stone tower. The structure is mostly on her property. The roof is in serious disrepair and she would like direction and help

with repairs. The wooden door and locks have been vandalized repeatedly so she is having a steel door installed. The Commission will investigate the possibility of grant money to help and perhaps to appeal to local developers for donation of materials. The NHDHR has been notified of the existence of the tower and will send any information they might have from prior surveys of the castle property.

- **Plans and other submissions**

1. Letter from Highway Safety Committee requesting comments on possible road names for new developments. The list was reviewed and additions and deletions made. Suggest to use Campbell in the new Center District; names of areas from "Morrison's History of Windham" also should be added. Buckhide Road is suggested for the Clarke Farm area.
2. Gauthier Subdivision (4 lot subdivision on Marblehead Road). The Commission is concerned regarding the fate of Smith Road as well as any stonework in the area.

Minutes submitted in draft form

Carol Pynn
Chair Windham Historic District/Heritage Commission