

FINAL

CANDIA HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

TUESDAY June 13 2017

SMYTH MEMORIAL BUILDING

Present: Diane Philbrick, Betty Sabean, Carmelle Druchniak, Lorraine Briand, Carol Howe, Holly Haas

Absent : Ray Creswell, Selectmen's Rep Russell Dann

Guest: Judith Fleenor

Minutes approved

Minutes from the commission's May meeting were approved – they are posted on the website

Guest Looking for Info on Local Ancestors

The meeting was attended by Judith Fleenor, who flew in from California to visit Candia and locate points of interest and artifacts related to her ancestor Isiah Rowe, who arrived in Candia between 1760-63. He married Sarah Healey, and his daughter Dolly married Stephen Smyth. They were the parents of Frederick Smyth, former governor of NH who donated a gate for the cemetery and money for the library. His second wife paid for construction of the Smyth Memorial Building.

Commission members offered their assistance by suggesting locations to visit and activities during her stay.

Moore School 4th Graders Say Thank You

Fourth graders presented Diane with a quilt spotlighting Candia's history, as a thank you for the local history day held June 7.

In addition, Diane noted that Moore School's Memorial Day festivities included recognition of the local men who refurbished the school weathervane. Carmelle will send a pic of that ceremony and one of the students and their quilt to local media.

Staffing SMB

Diane asked for a volunteer to staff the Smyth Memorial Building Saturday afternoon (Betty agreed), since it has been the practice to have an open house when the Fitts Museum is open. There was discussion whether this task should fall to the SMB trustees – and whether there is enough 'traffic' to warrant opening the building for a few hours on the weekend. Perhaps offering programs and activities would generate more interest?

Old Home Day Parade Participation

Holly asked whether the commission would consider creating a float for the Old Home Day parade, and how the group might attract visitors to the SMB, since most of the day's events take place down the hill at the park.

Discussion included asking other town groups to make a float which would be "sponsored" by the commission.

In other business :

- Related to ongoing discussion of existing veterans/military monuments or tributes in Candia, Lorraine reported on a memorial dedicated over Memorial Day weekend to recognize a Vietnam War helicopter company. The plaque was the brainchild of Candia resident, Russ Mowry, who was a member of the helicopter company and who received donations to erect a flagpole and make other improvements to the park, which has a monument to poet Sam Walter Foss, who penned the poem "The House by the Side of the Road" before his death in 1911. Mowry lives in "The House by the Side of the Road," across from the monuments. A second monument is dedicated to Foss' son, Pvt. Saxton Conant Foss, who was killed in World War I.
- Is there a stepping stone missing from the East Candia cemetery ? As a cemetery trustee, Holly will contact road agent Dennis Lewis to ask whether it was removed.
- Regarding the Depot Road Walking Tour/Kiosk Project, Holly has yet to hear from the Dept of Transportation contact about the small parcel identified as the potential location of a small kiosk. Plan B : erect a sign, already made by Selectman Carleton Robie, and put it on land owned by the Planters.

The next meeting of the Candia Heritage Commission is set for Tuesday, July 11, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carmelle Druchniak