

2013 october

DRAFT

CANDIA HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES  
TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 – 7PM  
SMYTH MEMORIAL BUILDING

Present:

Diane Philbrick, Betty Sabeau, Carmelle Druchniak, Carleton Robie, Ray Cresswell

Guests: Sandy Whitcomb, and Fitts Museum trustees: Linda Maxwell, Pat Larkin, Jim Lindsey, Janet Lewis, Rob Severino, Dave Desilets

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes approved**

Minutes from the commission's September meeting were approved.

**Discussion: SMB renovation, strategies, use**

The Fitts Museum trustees agreed to join the Commission for a discussion of how we might focus efforts on the hoped-for renovation of Smyth Memorial Building.

A central question was whether the Commission should request that the town appoint SMB trustees – a 'governing' body similar to that in place for the Fitts Museum. In that way, there would be a group specifically focused on the proposed renovation and public use of the Smyth Memorial Building.

Diane opened the discussion by pointing out Fitts trustees and Commission members have a common goal: to preserve the town's history and its landmarks. She also pointed out the SMB renovation project likely would benefit the Fitts Museum as well. How might a renovated SMB be used by the museum? What strategies might succeed in convincing Candia residents such a renovation is worthwhile?

Lengthy discussion followed. Among the points made:

- Ron Severino stated that while he and fellow trustees value the SMB and want to see the building used by local and other groups, they do not want

the SMB to be 'added' to the museum's responsibilities. Custodial work, scheduling and other oversight would be required if the SMB were available for public use, he said.

- Diane voiced her hope the SMB would be multi-use, for lectures, concerts, meetings, etc. and also welcomed suggestions the building could be used to store museum items and files.
- Another trustee suggested the SMB could be 'decorated' with historical items and artifacts now in storage due to a lack of space at the Fitts Museum, and also provide much-needed historical research space.

As for the creation of a SMB trustee board, Carleton offered to check with the board of selectmen on whether a warrant article would be needed to gain voter approval of such a measure. Once the approval is obtained, selectmen would appoint initial members, and later members would be chosen by the trustees.

SMB trustees would oversee efforts to promote renovation of the building, as well as manage existing financial accounts (the Ron Thomas Memorial Fund and proceeds from the sale of Commission-created books do have some money in them available to the Commission).

### **Lights on Hill request**

The selectmen have requested that the nativity display traditionally offered during the Lights on the Hill event (this year set for Dec. 14 & 15) be extended to offer additional viewing.

### **Candia history**

There was discussion of the writing of the town history. The current history only extends to 1963, but in this 'SemiQ' year, efforts continue to complete the work to present day.

A related topic was how to honor the author of the original history, Dot Purington, who recently passed away. Some suggested a plaque at SMB, at the Town Offices or Fitts Museum, or dedicating this year's Town Report to Ms. Purington.

### **New member**

There was an approved motion to accept Sandy Whitcomb's request for inclusion on the Candia Heritage Commission. The matter will be placed on the agenda of the next selectmen's meeting.

**Flagpole damaged**

The flagpole in front of the SMB blew over during a wind gust. Commission members briefly discussed how to replace the pole.

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**Next Meeting**

The next Heritage Commission meeting will be held Tuesday, Nov. 12.