

**Historic Preservation Commission Meeting
Lewis House, 277 Main Street, Norwich, Vermont**

MEETING AT TRACY HALL, MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

Attending: William Aldrich (Clerk), Peter Brink, Phil Dechert (CLG Coordinator), Cheryl Herrmann, Nancy Hoggson, Nancy Osgood (Chair), Anne Silberfarb

Guest: Judy Brown, Director at the Norwich Historical Society, Greg Sharrow, Seth Goodwin, Chad Finer, Charlotte Barrett, Chad Finer

Absent: Stuart White, Roger Blake (Advisory)

Nancy Hoggson, chair, called the meeting to order at 2:30PM.

1. Welcome and Introductions Nancy Hoggson

2. Norwich Farms – Project Overview Nancy Hoggson
Peter Brink

Nancy Hoggson will send contact-list of farmers to all contracted consultants for the Farm Project.

Farm Project consultants discuss their work:

Vermont Folklife Center – Greg Sharrow

Interview process:

Greg has experience interviewing Vermont farmers since 1992. Greg has received the questions from Peter Brink. His approach is to understand the perspective of the people he interviews; to understand historical impacts on their experience. Common ground emerges from the interviews. Greg will adhere to the dates in timeline provided; he will try to be underway in January (though we are halfway through the month already) and to be done to in time for the June 20th opening. Greg’s interviews will be sent to other contractors and the NHS by Dropbox.

Photographer- Chad Finer

Chad will provide pictures that are 16”X20”; he can do variable sizes, too. Chad will send photos online to NHS.

Writer-Researcher –

Charlotte Barrett :

Charlotte plans to make the Introductory Panel on the farm project and to do labels for photos made by Chad. It would be helpful to read the interviews before making displays/labels.

Seth Goodwin:

Seth is a high teacher at Hanover High School; he is working part time this year, so he has time for this project. As a teacher, he has learned to introduce content through

stories that will grab people. He will do research at the NHS and the Rauner Library at Dartmouth College to discover stories that bubble up out of the archives. Research should be Norwich centered; going back in time relevant to the specific farms in the project.

Nancy Hoggson: Nancy has observed that people don't read; displays should not be "copy-heavy". NHS has archived four previously made panels for reference that seem to have captured people's attention without too much information.

Peter Brink: For those who do read, Peter suggests making a notebook with more information; we could put documents online, too.

Filmmaker – Ben Silberfarb

Ben likes questions that have been prepared but wants to let farmers talk about what is important to them. In film, it is important to show VISUALLY the successes and difficulties of being a farmer. Through Ben's recent film on artisanal cheese makers, he has gotten to know a new generation of farmers. Luckily, Ben knows many of the farmers in Norwich and they will be relaxed while he is filming. Ben's concern about the timeline is that farming happens in the spring and summer; he will need to go back later in the process to get film during spring/summer. Ben would like historical pictures available at the NHS. Ben would like to talk to Phil about what the Town is doing to help farmers; also, he wants to film the Farmer's Market (see Charlotte Bothe – Dartmouth Master's degree thesis on farming) to show how the Norwich Farmer's Market helps farmers financially. Timeline: sit-down interviews will be done in February and March; walk-about-farms in March; shadow farmers when farmers are working on the farms in the spring. Video will be sent to NHS web-ready.

3. Project timeline – review and adjust

Nancy Hoggson
Peter Brink

January 14th: NHPC meeting with consultants; project begins.

January 31st: Oral history interviews (6) scheduled to be finished by the end of February; Greg will communicate interviews through Dropbox.

February 1-28: Writers begin work on exhibit panels; filmmaker begins interviews with farmers; to be continued through May; finer photographs selected for exhibit; NHS will receive an audio file from Greg. Timelogs will be completed, hopefully.

February 24th: NHPC will meet to view work completed to date; exhibit planning begins with NHPC and NHS and VT Folklife Center

March 1-31: History of Norwich Farming – Seth will finish information for introductory panel; resource book development begins

April 15: Copy for exhibit panels finished; panel fabrication begins

April 22: NHPC meets to review work; exhibit planning continues

May 25: video completed; rough cut, only; final cut ready by June 20th.

May 30: NHPC meets re exhibit opening

June 20, 2014: EXHIBIT OPENING

4. Consultant Contracts

Phil Dechert

Nancy will collect and share e-mails of consultants (including NHPC members).

Phil will provide contracts to consultants for review and then the final form.

Phil is to be consulted about finances and contracts. Consultants will send Phil copies of all e-mails.

Nancy Hoggson adjourned the meeting at 3:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Silberfarb

APPROVED 4-29-14