

STRAFFORD HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

July 12, 2019 10:00 A.M.

AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SHPC Members Present: Bob Johnston, Andersen Thorp, Silas Treadway, Tim Utt
Strafford Historical Society: Steffanie Johnston
Kate Willis: Historic Preservationist Consultant
Devon Coleman, Vermont Division for Historic Preservationist

Kate Willis gave an update on her current research, accomplishments, and where things might be headed. The 1979 research of individual properties, town records, and google maps have been instrumental in speeding Kate's research along. Kate noted that having the town's records available on-line was particularly helpful.

Most of the first draft work is near completion. New photographs and updated photographs of buildings need to be taken. Kate and Bob plan to ride around town following today's meeting to begin photographing the buildings. Kate invited SHPC members and Devon to join them. Standard procedure is to photograph buildings from "right-of-ways." If this is not possible, SHPC will contact property owners for permission to take photos. If there is foliage in way of buildings, we can wait until the fall when leaves have fallen to take photographs as we are well ahead of survey deadline.

Kate shed new light and initiated discussion on important historic landscape and landmarks in Strafford that might warrant inclusion in this study. These included the agricultural landscape between the two villages, Camp Thoreau, and the Elizabeth Mine. Kate explained the agricultural landscape and structures between the two villages could potentially be put a the National Historic Register. Camp Thoreau was the first "integrated" camp in the United States. Camp Thoreau may have the oldest house in Strafford, c. 1768, recognizing there have been modifications. Discussion continued on including some buildings in town with historically important connections to the Elizabeth Mine. This included the Minz's, Francis Devlin's, the "Change House" and a few more.

Devon agreed that the first draft of our survey should "look at everything." These may be potential projects for further CLG grants.

SHPC's survey includes 130 houses. The original 1979 survey missed six buildings. Thanks to Bob's diligence, passion, and hard work, he has documented the original owners of the 130 houses. The oldest barn in Strafford on Pennock Road will also be included in the current survey. Also included will be the four cemeteries, Strafford, Old City, Kibbling, and Evergreen.

Once Kate's first draft is complete, the HPC will review it. The document will then be presented to Devin. Kate is really happy with the process and progress so far!

Respectfully submitted,
Andersen Thorp, Clerk