

TOWN OF AMHERST  
Heritage Commission

May 11, 2023

**APPROVED**

In attendance: Conor Frain, Lisa Montesanto, Linda Zuerndorfer, Brenda Perry  
Staff in attendance: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote)

**1. Roll Call to Order**

Conor Frain called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

**2. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage**

Conor Frain stated that on May 17, 1774, there was a destructive frost in Town which was spoken of as the “Great White Frost” for years.

**3. Results/Discussion of Curran Property Acquisition**

Lisa Montesanto noted that the final vote on the Curran acquisition is slated for next Monday evening at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

**4. Review of the Heritage Master Plan Action List**

Conor Frain reviewed the action list. Items include adopting a demolition delay for structures built before 1960. Lisa Montesanto noted that there is already a demolition delay in place for structures in the Historic District. She agreed that an additional demolition delay should be discussed further.

The next item is the metal detection policy for all municipal properties. The Commission agreed to follow up with Will Ludt on this item.

Another item is to consider additional studies and documentation of historic and archaeological sites throughout the community for their protection and enjoyment and establish priorities on research documentation protection of sites and steps to promote and share Amherst heritage. Conor Frain stated that this supports the Commission’s priority list and grants could be sought to continue this.

The next item is to create public outreach and educational opportunities regarding enjoyment of heritage sites. It was noted that this fits in with some of the items being pursued through the new website, and the proposed scavenger hunt around Town.

Next is to develop a fact sheet to inspire action on private property such as caring for stone walls and heritage sites. Brenda Perry stated that she believes some public outreach was going to be completed to advertise this. Conor Frain suggested that this fact sheet could be posted on the new website. DHR may have a draft to use for this. Lisa Montesanto suggested partnering with the Historical Society on this item.

Another item is to engage volunteers for digitization of items within the vault. Conor Frain suggested that this could be a grant item if volunteers cannot be found.

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Finally, to encourage the public to assist with and participate in the planning of cultural celebrations focusing on honoring Amherst past. Brenda Perry noted that the NH Communities Council is discussing indigenous land. Large amounts of artifacts are being dug up around New England to be carbon dated.

**5. Minutes April 13, 2023; & April 19, 2023**

**Brenda Perry moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 13, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Lisa Montesanto.**

**Vote: 4-0-0; all in favor.**

**Linda Zuerndorfer moved to approve the meeting minutes of April 19, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Brenda Perry.**

**Vote: 4-0-0; all in favor.**

**7. Roundtable**

Linda Zuerndorfer explained that Gordon Zuerndorfer has continued to tour Camp Young Judaea to hear the history and take photos. He will compile this information and submit it to the Commission.

Brenda Perry noted that she and Will Ludt recently attended the annual Baboosic Lake Association meeting. There is a lot of concern regarding milfoil in the Lake. Attempts to get rid of it have not been successful so far. There was discussion that there should be a historic marker for the pavilion and dance hall at the Lake. The Commission could pay for these markers. Lisa Montesanto agreed that this should be considered. Conor Frain suggested that the Heritage Commission could help support this but does not necessarily believe the Commission should pay for these markers.

Conor Frain noted that there will be a public meeting at New Boston Town Hall on May 25<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. The Space Force Station and Army Corp of Engineers will discuss environmental clean-up projects at the base.

**Brenda Perry moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:54pm. Seconded by Lisa Montesanto.**

**Vote: 4-0-0; all in favor.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristan Patenaude*

Minutes approved: June 8, 2023