



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Landry Conference Room
Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members of the commission in attendance included Andy Ouellette, Carolyn Quinn, Mary Mahar, Larry McCoy, and Lisa Montesanto. Those absent included Bill Veillette, Tom Grella, and Eric Hahn.

II. Topics of Discussion

Chairman Ludt opened the meeting with three “Throwback Thursday” items similar to what is seen on Facebook where events and photos from the past are included. First, he passed around the January/February edition of Yankee Magazine which included an article about the Wilkins family. Another article was also in the magazine on the pipeline. Second, Chairman Ludt said he attended a memorial for Bill Wichman who recently passed away. Mr. Wichman did a lot of work for the Historical Society and Conservation Commission. The third item included reminiscing about the “dump”.

a. Partnership Event – Sunday, January 31, 2016

Chairman Ludt stated that Mary Mahar sent out an email announcing a snow shoeing and hiking event on the Joe English Reservation sponsored by the Commission. Mary Mahar stated that the event is planned as part of the Freedom’s Way “Connecting Communities” initiative. A morning hike is scheduled from 10:00 a.m. to noon and an afternoon hike from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be available at the Peabody Mill Environmental Center (PMEC) from noon to 1:00 p.m. Recreation Department staff will be available to hand out snowshoes and help out. Chairman Ludt asked Commission members to attend and meet at 10:00 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. Brochures will be available about Freedom’s Way as well.

b. Potential Grant Opportunities for 2016

Chairman Ludt stated that a grant opportunity may exist through the Certified Local Government (CLG) grants which usually become available in the February through June timeframe. Another opportunity is through the

National Trust for a one to one match; i.e., to get \$5,000, the Commission would have to match \$5,000. A couple of things Chairman Ludt would like to do with the CLG grant is carry on the opportunity to get the three farmsteads that were surveyed and eligible for National Registry onto the Registry. Consultant Katy Holmes is interested in helping and there would be less money to ask for. Chairman Ludt will ask for an estimate from Lynn Monreau and Liz Higgin. A little more research would have to be done on the properties and then formatted in accord with the Park Services requirements. Chairman Ludt is open to other suggestions.

Andy Ouellette said he had thought about fixing the Town Hall windows and bricks and asked if Mr. Ludt had talked with Administrator Jim O'Mara about the matter. Chairman Ludt said he wants to talk with Ruslyn Vear and Jim O'Mara about the vault and try to move that project along which will probably require a grant to get someone who knows what needs to be preserved. Mr. Ouellette said much of what is in the vault could be really important for research. Chairman Ludt said he visited the Milford Grange and going through the records he noticed they had lists of dues payments of 10 cents and 15 cents which was a lot of money for the farmers of the day. One was in 1849 and another in 1860 or 70.

Carolyn Quinn asked if Commission members could visit. Chairman Ludt said the gentleman he visited with, Robert Glover, was pushing 90 years old and wanted to tell us all about the Grange. Mr. Ludt told him about the Souhegan Grange that closed and asked where related documents may have gone. Mr. Glover said the records probably went to the State or the local Historical Society. Lisa Montesanto will ask Susan if she knows where Grange documents might be stored. Chairman Ludt has a name and number of a state contact and said the Division of Historical Records has a list of possible grants but those grants require a lot of back-up information and are difficult to get. The Conservation Commission went through the process a few years ago to buy land by Mack Hill and were not even considered.

Andy Ouellette asked that Chairman Ludt ask about the work to be done on the Town Hall when he meets with Jim O'Mara since it was not budgeted for. There was not a great deal of discussion about it. Lisa Montesanto asked if there was an estimate done. Chairman Ludt said that he and Andy Ouellette had sought an estimate for the Capital Improvement Program which came in at \$93,000. Andy Ouellette also stated that the Board had consolidated all such work under one budget line item but it is for fixing a broken window or replacing a light bulb, not for larger repair items. The Ways and Means Committee had proposed a Capital Reserve fund for major repairs and maintenance and the Selectmen were not particularly interested. One of the reasons the CR fund was proposed is because the Department of Public Works

is in need of a building to do maintenance work on vehicles. There will be a Warrant Article for that purpose.

Chairman Ludt asked Committee members to think about grants. Everyone agreed to pursue a grant to continue the remaining work to be done in getting the eligible farmsteads onto the National Registry.

c. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions

Larry McCoy said he resigned from the HDC. It was noted that Mr. McCoy was the third Commission member to resign in the last several months. Carolyn Quinn served on the Historic District Commission for 15 years and said it use to be an honor to serve. Mr. McCoy said it was difficult to get things done. Andy Ouellette said that Colleen Mailloux, Community Development Director, is aware of the situation and plans on spending more time on regulations once a new staff person, if approved, is on board.

Chairman Ludt said he attended the Conservation Commission meeting last night. Highlights included:

- A review of the ACC budget
- Friends of the Lindabury Orchard presented plans for the orchard. The ACC bought the property and is now working on duties and responsibilities of the Friends of the Orchard. It was a good briefing. Chairman Ludt encouraged everyone to go out and see the barn once the weather gets nice. The barn has been leveled, and has a new front façade and sliding doors. It is very nice.
- An update to the Kinder Morgan (KM) pipeline. Apparently the town and KM are going through the impact on wetlands. Amherst is part of a group of 15 towns who have submitted impact statements to KM.

Andy Ouellette said he spoke with ACC Chairman, John Harvey, about the stone wall project and asked him how the ACC went about doing the wetlands survey of the whole town about 10 years ago. Mr. Harvey did not know but suggested that Anne Krass would be the one to talk with. He also stated that they had hired the job out. Mr. Ouellette said that Google Earth has made their pro version available for free. Most of the images were taken in the summer, unfortunately. The problem with satellite imagery is that the resolution or zoom is limited. And there are sections of town covered with pine. Mr. Harvey also said that the ACC survey files were at Town Hall.

Chairman Ludt indicated that the town has developed a new website that is supposed to be more user-friendly. Training sessions for each commission and committee members are planned.

Chairman Ludt asked committee members to think about grants and some Throwback Thursday items for February's meeting. He appreciates everyone's support for the upcoming January 31st event.

III. Minutes of December 10, 2015 Meeting

Mary Mahar moved, second by Andy Ouellette, to approve the December 10, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.