



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Landry Conference Room
Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:30 PM

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

II. Topics of Discussion

It was reported that Colleen Mailloux had resigned her position as Community Development Director effective March 25, 2016. Larry McCoy read her resignation email saying that she had accepted a position in Bedford that would allow her to spend more time with her family.

- a. “Throwback Thursday–Amherst Heritage”: No recollections were expressed.

- b. Historic District Subcommittee

This newly established subcommittee is currently on hold with the resignation of Colleen Mailloux. Lisa Montesanto who agreed to serve on the subcommittee will check on the status prior to the Commission’s next meeting.

- c. Potential Grants

Mr. Ouellette stated that Chairman Ludt indicated that a Letter of Intent, dated March 9th, was submitted to the NH Department of Historical Resources (NHDHR) on the 2016 CLG grant. The letter stated that the Heritage Commission is interested in submitting a grant proposal by May 2, 2016. The topic will be to continue the tree work previously done in 2014-2015, and to take the three farmsteads onward to receive full recognition under the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register for one farmstead. NHDHR is expected to review inputs in the next two weeks and will provide feedback.

Regarding the Bertha Rogers grant, Town Hall Vault Document Cataloging and Preservation, Chairman Ludt worked with Ruslyn Vear of the Amherst

Town Library to host a certified archivist to review vault holdings. Chairman Ludt met with the archivist on February 26th. They took careful measurements of the vault for potential new cabinets for the vault. A detailed cost estimate will be prepared next week for the grant. The plan is to submit a grant proposal by March 25th.

Andy Ouellette said he was waiting for a call back from NH Granit, a statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) clearinghouse affiliated with the University of NH. It is a project that creates and makes available statewide geographic data. The Granit staff offers a range of application development, training, and related technical services to GIS users in the state and region. Mr. Ouellette is looking for ideas and help with mapping and accessing aerial views of area stone walls. He said he was unsure if any expense was involved.

Commission members discussed cleaning up scenic roads and the work necessary to uncovering stone walls. Lisa Montesanto said that a list of volunteers can be provided to the Town Administrator, Jim O'Mara, who will make sure they are insured. Getting in touch with Rick Katzenberg was again mentioned regarding a "teen" bank. Lisa Montesanto indicated that there is an art to stone walling and suggested that hired help should just clear brush, no stacking. She stated, too, that at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester they teach how to build stone walls. Andy Ouellette said a law was enacted to protect old narrow roads designated as scenic roads and allows towns to get state funds to protect walls and trees. Individual towns can impose further restrictions from the state laws.

d. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions Attendance

No updates were provided.

III. Minutes of February 11, 2016 Meeting

The minutes of the February 11, 2016 meeting were approved, as amended.

IV. Commission Roundtable

V. Adjourn

Mary Mahar moved, second by Lisa Montesanto, to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.