



# **Town of Amherst, NH**

## **HERITAGE COMMISSION**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Brick School Community Room**  
**Thursday, April 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM**

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

**II. Topics of Discussion**

a. “Throwback Thursday–Amherst Heritage”: Larry McCoy said he moved to Amherst in 1969. In March 1970, he and his wife attended the town meeting where the moderator, who sported a handlebar moustache, monitored voice votes amidst lots of yelling and disorder. Having moved from New York, Mr. McCoy and his wife were unaccustomed to the ways of town administration.

Mary Mahar said the old house at Mack Hill, past Austin Road (not Noble Farm) has been demolished. The house had been for sale by the owner.

b. Updates on Potential Grants Opportunities

i. Chairman Ludt indicated that he had heard back from the NH Department of Historical Resources (NHDHR) in response to his March 9<sup>th</sup> “letter of intent” to file a grant application for a CLG grant to take the three farmsteads onward to receive full recognition under the National Register of Historic Places and the State Register for one farmstead. The NHDHR does not want the Heritage Commission to pursue the grant because there has been a change in federal dollars going to states; i.e., they are unable to use federal monies on private homes and the farmsteads are all private homes. Federal grant funds received by the state must be used on public buildings.

Larry McCoy stated that the Town Hall is still in need of work – shutters, windows, and brick work. Chairman Ludt said that the Commission had moved that matter forward through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) years ago but it has continued to fall below the budget “cut line”. He said they had a bid from an historical mason for the windows. A certain kind of cement must

be used for historic-designated buildings. Chairman Ludt will follow-up on the matter.

ii. Regarding the Bertha Rogers grant, Chairman Ludt said the two applications submitted – one for the Stonewall Initiative and a second for the Cataloging and Preservation of materials in the Town Hall vault -- will be reviewed next week. Chairman Ludt said that historically the Bertha Rogers Fund grants \$35,000 to \$40,000 on projects toward the betterment of Amherst.

c. Quarries in Amherst

Chairman Ludt stated that Tom Mortimer who does research into geology/granite formation has found that Amherst had ten known quarries from the 1800s to 1900s; most of them now filled in. Chairman Ludt had hoped he could access the website tonight but it appears to be a “work in progress” and is not actively linked yet. The link to the Quarry Research is <http://mindatnh.org/AmherstQuarries>.

d. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions

Chairman Ludt said that Carolyn Quinn has resigned from the Commission, and Bill Veillette has elected not to renew his appointment. In May, Chairman Ludt said the agenda will include an item to pay homage to Mr. Veillette’s contributions to the Heritage Commission. Currently, that leaves three vacancies on the Heritage Commission. Lisa Montesanto is willing to move from an alternate position to a full position.

Lisa Montesanto and Larry McCoy have volunteered to serve on the Community Development Subcommittee that will look into regulations once a new Community Development Director is hired. There was brief discussion on how the Amherst Historic District has been expanded over the years and today is the largest in the state.

Chairman Ludt reported that Sara Siskavich of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) indicated that new technology is on its way to the NRPC that will help in the identification and location of stonewalls. The Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology is a surveying system that measures distance by illuminating a target with a laser light.

Chairman Ludt said he is working with SAU #39 to make the foyer entrance of the Brick School a mini-museum using the remaining funds from the Bean Grant. The SAU is contributing as well. The project should be completed by next September.

Freedom's Way "Hidden Treasures" 2016 is scheduled May 14<sup>th</sup> and will include guided tours of Amherst's Wigwam and Chapel Museums from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

### **III. Minutes of January 14<sup>th</sup> and March 10<sup>th</sup> Meetings**

Mary Mahar moved, second by Larry McCoy, to approve the January 14, 2016 and March 10, 2016 meeting minutes, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

### **IV. Commission Roundtable**

Lisa Montesanto said they had been working hard and trying to get renovations done at the Wigwam Museum. Chairman Ludt said he'd like to hold the June meeting at the Lindabury Barn. The meeting would have to start earlier. Friends of the Orchard have done a lot of work on the barn.

Lisa Montesanto is concerned that the historic tour for third graders was "cut out" this year. It seems teachers feel time is limited and there is no time to visit the Chapel and Wigwam Museums. Ms. Montesanto doesn't want the program to fade away.

### **V. Adjourn**

Mary Mahar moved, second by Larry McCoy, to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.