



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Landry Conference Room
Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order:** Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Members of the commission in attendance included Chairman Ludt, Carolyn Quinn, Larry McCoy, and Lisa Montesanto. Those absent included: Andy Ouellette, Mary Mahar, Bill Veillette, and Eric Hahn.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. “Throwback Thursday–Amherst Heritage”:

b. Farewell to Bill Veillette and Carolyn Quinn – Reflections of their AHC contributions.

Chairman Ludt said he hoped Bill Veillette could have made the meeting to reflect on all of the work he and Carolyn Quinn have done over the last 12-14 years while serving on the Heritage Commission. Chairman Ludt said he and Mr. Veillette co-founded the Heritage Commission and identified what the Commission could be for the town, and he wanted to pay homage to Bill for moving things along; developing rules and procedures. Mr. Veillette also worked on the Corn Crib Stabilization Program which was very important to the Heritage Commission. Bill did all the leg work in getting a DOT grant of \$340,000. Those funds helped to restore the Town Hall and remove the safety hazards. Bill was also instrumental in working on the Resource Survey and those were just a few items that came freely to Chairman Ludt’s mind.

Chairman Ludt became emotional when reflecting on his work with Carolyn Quinn. Both considered each other “best friends”. Chairman Ludt said one of the first celebrations that they worked together on was the 150th anniversary of the Brick School. Chairman Ludt recalled a neat celebration that included a historic impersonator, attendees sang Auld Lang Syne. They had returning graduates and one woman who graduated from the Amherst High School in 1929 attended. A major project that Carolyn did an outstanding job on was the

town's 250th anniversary celebration which was a three or four year project in the making. It was a wonderful year long celebration in 2010 that started off with the reading of the document from the 1760 Governor Wentworth who was appointed by the King of England. There was a ceremony at the church and all organizations were invited to participate. From that, Carolyn was chosen as Citizen of the Year. Chairman Ludt said he hated to see both Carolyn and Bill go and it's too bad they are both leaving at the same time. The Commission will need a good replacement and he thanked both Bill Veillette and Carolyn Quinn for all they had done for the Heritage Commission and their community.

To much laughter, Larry McCoy remembered living in the same neighborhood as Carolyn and how he had hatched a plot to kidnap a neighbor's Irish Setter and rid the neighborhood of the barking dog.

- c. Update on Grant Opportunities
- d. Quarries in Amherst -- postponed to next meeting.
- e. LIDAR Imagery of Amherst/Update on Stonewall Project -- postponed to next meeting
- f. Discussion on Possible Heritage Commission Members

Commission members brought up names of residents who might serve on the Heritage Commission to replace Bill Veillette and Carolyn Quinn. Chairman Ludt mentioned Sarah Saskavitch who serves on the Nashua Regional Planning Commission, had declined previously but is seriously thinking about serving. Chairman Ludt will ask Sarah again if she is able to serve. Katrina Holman has declined before. Mary Ireland, a teacher, and Liz Larson who is very involved with the library were mentioned. Lisa Montesanto will reach out to Liz Larson.

It was noted that Eric Hahn has not attended a meeting in some time. He serves as the representative from the Planning Board. Commission members discussed the importance of having a Planning Board representative on the Heritage Commission. Chairman Ludt will speak with Arnie Rosenblatt, Chair of the Planning Board, to get a replacement for Eric Hahn.

- g. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions Attendance

Chairman Ludt said the NHDHR wants to come to Amherst in July or August regarding the CLG. He will try to convince them that September would be better after vacations are over and kids are back to school. They are looking for an opportunity to discuss other things that could be done in Amherst related to grant funding. They wish to meet with the Heritage Commission and the Historic District Commission. Chairman Ludt will reach out to Jamie Ramsey, Chair of the Historic District Commission. He said he prepares a joint Annual Report for the state that Chairman Ramsey reviews.

The Bertha Rogers Grant Selection Committee stopped by to let Commission members know that they had approved the grant to fund identifying and cataloguing of materials in the town vault. The Committee members asked that a plaque be included memorializing Bertha Rogers. The next step is the Board of Selectmen approval prior to receipt of funds. The grant requesting funds for the stone walls project was not approved. Larry McCoy suggested getting one scenic road work done and that may help generate interest and funding to complete the more of the scenic road work that is necessary. The Commission may also want to explore designating Christian Hill as a scenic road.

III. Minutes of the April 14, 2016 and May 12, 2016 Meetings

Larry McCoy moved, second by Lisa Montesanto, to approve the April 14, 2016 meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

The May meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum.

IV. Adjourn

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