



**Town of Amherst, NH
AMHERST HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES
FINAL MINUTES**

Landry Conference Room

Thursday, 9 March 2017, 7:30 PM

Regular Members in attendance were: Will Ludt, Lisa Montesanto, Larry McCoy, Tom Grella- BOS Ex Officio, and Kristan Patenaude – Recorder.
Alternate Members in attendance were: John Bement and Conor Frain.
Absent members were: Andy Ouellette, Mary Mahar.
Also in attendance: Mr. Simon Corson, Amherst Community Development Planner.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ludt called the meeting to order sharply at 7:30PM.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. “Throw Back Thursday” – Amherst Heritage:

The meeting opened with a discussion between Mr. Grella and Mr. Bement regarding a few Amherst Histories that Sally Wilkins had made available through the Amherst Facebook page in PDFs. These include the Secomb book, the Daniel Farmer book, and the Locke book.

Chairman Ludt discussed moving forward with the plan for the Heritage Commission to revisit the New Boston Air Force Station Melendy farm foundation this spring. Chairman Ludt will try to schedule the visit around black fly season; hopefully for May or June. The group also discussed having Mr. Grella contact Dan Barton in order to tour the town steeple and clock tower of the Congregational Church, possibly in April.

b. Welcome to: Kristan Patenaude – New Heritage Commission Recorder:

Kristan Patenaude was given a warm welcome to the Heritage Commission by all of the members.

45 **c. Heads-up on Upcoming Town Preservation Activities:**

46 Chairman Ludt discussed the Conservation Commission's hike of the month. This
47 takes place on the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10am. In February the group hiked
48 the Betty Arnold Trail and this month the group will trek the Highland Trail in Joe
49 English. In May the Heritage Commission will be sponsoring the hike at Lindabury
50 Orchard.

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52 Chairman Ludt explained that he, Mr. Bement and Mr. Ouellette had met to discuss
53 the metal detector policy. They hoped to meet with the 6 stakeholders in town in
54 April, but haven't yet scheduled the meeting. The 6 stakeholders include the library,
55 the school district, the cemetery trustees, the conservation commission, the recreation
56 department, and the town. The group discussed contacting the Community
57 Development Office and Bruce Berry as representatives for the town on this matter.
58 Ms. Montesanto stated that she would contact Mont Vernon resident, Michael
59 Warren, so that he might speak to the group about metal detecting specifics before
60 they schedule a meeting with the stakeholders.

61
62 Chairman Ludt explained that the town was awarded a certified local government
63 grant.

64
65 The group discussed the Chris Buchanan article regarding Roadway Design Standards
66 in the Amherst Historic District. Mr. McCoy commented that he doesn't like the extra
67 stop signs and double yellow lines in the Historic District and feels that it takes away
68 from the authenticity of the town. He doesn't want any of the possible changes to take
69 away from the lovely old-time look of the Village.

70 Mr. Simon Corson stated that Mr. Buchanan's plan is really to have the roadways in
71 the Historic District look different in a way that signals to drivers that they're now in
72 a different space. Hopefully the special infrastructure will show people how to drive
73 accordingly.

74 Mr. McCoy discussed how far the Historic District has been expanded into the town.
75 He wondered how the placement of these proposed changes will be determined.
76 Chairman Ludt doesn't want to see neighbors versus neighbors over bringing more
77 development into the Village in this way. He believes Amherst is special and should
78 be protected as such.

79 Chairman Ludt explained that the Historic District Commission will be meeting next
80 Thursday to discuss this issue and has requested for any members of the Heritage
81 Commission who can attend to do so.

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83 **d. Feedback: Submitted Resume Personal Goals:**

84 A compilation of the Commission's personal goals was presented by Chairman Ludt.
85 A copy of this can be found attached to these minutes.

86
87 Chairman Ludt explained that the Bertha Rogers grant is coming along well. In
88 particular he discussed a document from 1893 that was recovered from the Town
89 Vault that listed the dog registrations for that year. Each of the dogs was listed by
90 name in the document, which the group found quite entertaining. They also

discovered old maps and the original layout of the Amherst district within the town. There is probably another three months of hard work to be done on this grant. There is a desire to pursue another grant to allow for the digitization and preservation of all of the material currently being sifted through.

e. Feedback: Heritage Commission – FWHHA Partnership for “Connecting Communities” – 29 January 2017 Event:

Chairman Ludt discussed the hiking event at PMEC that was held at the end of January. There was a good turnout of 18 hikers and the group hiked the Chuck Bacon trail in Joe English. Mr. Ludt gave thanks for the support that the Heritage Commission members gave.

In regards to a question asked by Mr. McCoy, Mr. Ludt explained that the building at PMEC is not open regularly on the weekends unless an event is being held. He suggested holding one of the Commission’s meetings there in the future.

f. Roundtable – Attendance at Other Boards / Commissions:

Mr. McCoy started a discussion regarding the trimming of trees along the roadways in town. There was a large conversation about how much trimming is being done and if it’s enough – safety-wise. Mr. Ludt suggested that Mr. Grella mention the issue to Bruce Berry at some point in the future.

Mr. Simon Corson extended his services to everyone as the new Planner for the Community Development Office. He has a lot of experience with GIS software and would be happy to help anyone who needs it.

Mr. Conor Frain discussed the amount of clearing done out near County Road and Cricket Corner Road. This is part of the Hazen Land Purchase. The group commented on how unfortunate it is to see this amount of land cut back.

Ms. Lisa Montesanto explained to the group that the 3rd grade’s History Week is being diminished again this year and she hopes to find a way to maintain it. The 3rd graders no longer tour many of the historical structures that they used to. Chairman Ludt expressed interest in showing the children items from the vault if they visit the Town Hall. Mr. Bement suggested showing them the registered dog name list from 1893 and the group agreed.

Chairman Ludt suggested moving the Heritage Commission meeting time from 7:30pm to 7:00pm. The group decided that keeping the meeting at 7:30pm was preferred.

Ms. Montesanto noted that she saw the land that Labelle is trying to purchase has moved from “under contract” to “pending,” so it’s possible that the deal is trying to be pushed through.

g. Minutes Review / Approval – 12 January 2017

137 Conor Frain moved, seconded by John Bement, to approve the January 12, 2017
138 meeting minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously.
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140 **III. Adjourn**

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142 Tom Grella moved, seconded by Lisa Montesanto, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24
143 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.
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147 Respectfully submitted,
148 Kristan Patenaude
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