



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

**Congregational Church &
Landry Conference Room**

Thursday, 13 April 2017, 6:00 PM

Regular Members in attendance: Will Ludt, Lisa Montesanto, Larry McCoy, Mary Mahar, Tom Grella- BOS Ex Officio, and Kristan Patenaude – Recorder.

Alternate Members in attendance: John Bement and Conor Frain.

Public Member: Andy Ouellette (Regular Member in Suspension), Jeanne Ludt, and Marie Grella

Also in attendance: Mr. Gordon Leedy, Community Development, and Mr. Simon Corson, Amherst Town Planner.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Ludt called the meeting to order sharply at 5:56 PM on the Congregational Church Front Steps.

II. Site Visit (Congregational Church Town Steeple)

After a short introduction, a small group, led by Dan Barton, toured the town owned steeple of the Congregational Church. In addition to seeing the inner workings of the Steeple, the group also climbed to the top of the bell tower and was able to look out over the town from the top. The Heritage Commission greatly appreciated this tour and the information garnered from it.

III. Topics of Discussion

a. “Throw Back Thursday – Amherst Heritage”

Chairman Ludt explained that the bell the group saw today in the Town Steeple is actually the fourth bell in service, as the first three were eventually cracked and replaced. The current bell has been in service since 1839. *Reference: Amherst Historical Moments, 2004, Rowe and Veillette.*

Mr. Ouellette stated that he will be ready to present his project on the town's first land grants soon.

b. Support to the Historic District Commission (HDC)

Chairman Ludt explained that the HDC is working to improve the guidelines for the Historic District. The document will be an introduction and guidelines to show the public what the HDC does. Part of the document deals with historic landmarks and may require some input from the Heritage Commission in regards to the metal detector policy.

Mr. Frain explained that he'd like to see something in the document regarding the discovery of new objects with potential historic significance. He hopes the wording will promote people asking questions about items they find, rather than deciding on their own if they are significant or not.

In regards to a question from Ms. Montesanto, Mr. Corson explained that if an object is found the HDC might have the proper contacts to find an expert to determine the possible historic significance.

c. Bertha Rogers Grant Update – Town Hall Vault Project

Chairman Ludt explained that the group is coming to the end of this grant. They have been working to identify items from the vault 2 days per week. A trip was made to a document conservation center in Andover to explore how much money it would cost of preserve and digitize the found documents. Due to the cost, probably only 2 of the documents will be able to be fully preserved/digitized. A grant will be applied for to cover this cost. The other documents will be stored in archival boxes with spreadsheets detailing what's in each.

d. Site Visit – New Boston AFS – Luther Melendy Farmstead

Chairman Ludt stated that this site visit will occur before the Commission's next meeting on May 11th.

e. Roundtable – Attendance at Other Boards / Commissions

Mr. Bement discussed the 52 Barns in 52 weeks presentation and the group talked about how to use the resource to help the town.

Mr. Corson and Mr. McCoy discussed the importance of finding a map of the Historic District from 1986/7. Mr. Corson explained that the Historic District was enlarged in 1986/7 to protect it from commercialization, but that he would like to know more about what happened during this time period.

Chairman Ludt stated that the Board of Selectman granted 3 year extensions to himself, Ms. Mahar, and Mr. McCoy to the Amherst Heritage Commission. Mr. Frain was also granted a 1 year extension.

Chairman Ludt explained that this month's trail hike will be at the Greater Woods Conservation Area on April 15 at 10am. The hike on May 20th will be put together by the Heritage Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Freedom's Way Heritage Association, and will occur at Lindabury Orchards.

Chairman Ludt also stated that the Freedom's Way Heritage Association will be sponsoring a walking tour on May 13th. The tour will start at 1pm and will go from the Library to the Chapel Museum.

f. **Minutes Review / Approval – 9 March 2017**

Tom Grella moved, seconded by Conor Frain, to approve the March 9, 2017 meeting minutes as written. Motion passed unanimously.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

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135 Respectfully submitted,

136 Kristan Patenaude