



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

Landry Conference Room

Thursday, 10 August 2017, 7:30 PM

Regular Members in attendance were: Will Ludt, Larry McCoy, and Lisa Montesanto
Alternate Members in attendance were: John Bement
Also in attendance: Simon Corson, Planner
Recorder: Kristan Patenaude

I. Call to Order

Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order sharply at 7:29 PM.

II. Topics of Discussion

Mr. Ludt explained to the group that from now on the Heritage Commission meetings will be recorded and televised on public access tv.

a. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage

Mr. Ludt stated that Mr. John Bement has a nice article published regarding Luther Melendy and the abolitionist movement in the Historical Society newsletter.

b. Update on Town Hall Vault Project

Mr. Ludt explained that the consultant and the town historian have been working diligently on this contract. It seems that the project will be done in about 2 months. The Vault looks in much better shape now. At the completion of the project, a presentation will be made to the Commission, the Board of Selectman and the Bertha Rogers trustees, during a small ceremony. There will be a sign placed over the Vault and the data collected will be made available online.

c. Review of Past 3 Months of Heritage Commission Activities (May-June-July)

The Commission reviewed their trip to the Town Steeple in May and to the New Boston Air Force Base/Luther Melendy farmstead in June.

Chairman Ludt explained that there is currently a high school intern helping the Commission with any research they might need done. Mr. Ludt also discussed the Plum Trail in Joe English and the possibility of examining 2 foundation sites he's noticed not far off the trail.

Mr. Ludt explained to the group that there will be a meeting next Thursday morning to discuss if there are any potential National Historic Landmark sites in Amherst. He believes there are 3 possibilities: the Spalding House, the Luther Melendy farmstead site, and the Horace Greely homestead.

d. Update on Metal Detecting Policy for Amherst

The group reviewed that Mr. Ludt, Mr. Bement, and Mr. Andy Ouellette were asked by the Board of Selectman to put together a metal detecting policy/guide. The group met with Michael Warren of Mont Vernon in order to discuss and do research on the issue. A June 21st meeting with various stakeholders led to the idea that metal detecting will be eliminated on public property in town unless it's needed by the town for specific research. Mr. Ludt has put together a draft policy for the Commission to review and discuss.

The group discussed how the policy would be "policed." They agreed that it would be best for experts to be the ones searching for and, subsequently, digging up any type of artifacts found.

Mr. Simon Corson suggested getting in touch with Rich Boisvert, the State Archaeologist, in order to gain some insight on the draft policy.

e. Potential New Members for Appointment to Heritage Commission

Mr. Ludt explained that the Commission needs a replacement for Mr. Ouellette. He asked for an ad to be created that can be displayed in Town Hall and on the website.

Mr. Ludt stated that Marie Grella will be putting together an event in 2018 to celebrate WWI veterans around the same time that the moving Vietnam Veterans wall comes to Amherst. Mr. Conor Frain will be the point person for this endeavor. Mr. Ludt also stated that he would like to do something in 2020 to honor the 100 year anniversary of the Women's suffrage movement.

f. Roundtable – Attendance at Other Board/Commissions

Ms. Lisa Montesanto and Mr. Bement discussed the upcoming book sale and Historical Society events. The Historical Society event on September 16th will consist of speakers and dinner on the Green. In the future, it's hoped that all groups will participate and it will grow to be a type of "Old Home Day" event. Mr. Corson suggested including information on events like this in future mailings sent out by the Historic District Commission to new town members.

Ms. Montesanto explained that the Ciderfest has a new chairwoman this year. The event will be held on September 23rd.

92 In response to a question from Mr. Ludt, Mr. Corson stated that the COG grant
93 should be coming in September or October. The grant will allow for 2 days of
94 meetings with an expert, who will be available to answer questions the
95 Commission might have for him.

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97 **g. Minutes Review/Approval**

98 *A MOTION was made by Mr. McCoy and SECONDED by Ms. Montesanto to*
99 *approve the minutes from the May 11, 2017 meeting as submitted.*

100 *Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

101 **III. Adjourn**

102 *Chairman Ludt adjourned the meeting at 8:15pm.*

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108 *Respectfully submitted,*
109 *Kristan Patenaude*
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