



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Thursday, April 9, 2015 at 7:00 PM

I. Call to Order: Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Attendees: Will Ludt, Andy Ouellette, Larry McCoy, and Mary Mahar. Also present: Katy Holmes, CLG Grant Consultant and Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes. Absent: Bill Veillette, Carolyn Quinn, Tom Grella and Eric Hahn. No members of the public were in attendance.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. Meeting with Katy Holmes, CLG Grant Consultant

Katy Holmes, CLG Grant Consultant, attended the meeting to report on the status of her work and progress on the four farmsteads being researched. All four farmsteads have been visited. One farm was owned by a noteworthy individual; the three others owned by farmers who were scratching out a living. A myriad of stone walls have been a focus of Ms. Holmes' research as well. Today, she visited with John Nute at the UNH Cooperative Extension in Goffstown where they have historical aerial maps from 1952 showing the various uses of the stone walls. Each farmstead is at a different stage of completion. Ms. Holmes is currently looking at historic boundaries which will be a little tougher to pin down since timbered tracts are not contiguous. People have been very cooperative. Chairman Ludt's stated that Ms. Holmes has submitted draft forms to the Department of Historic Resources and has received good feedback from the State.

Ms. Holmes said that 80 percent of the project is complete. A statement for National Register eligibility needs to be prepared and a project presentation developed. Chairman Ludt's indicated that part of the project includes a presentation to be made in a public forum which could be held when school is in session in June or early September. Details will need to be worked out. Andy Ouellette suggested involving the Historical Society.

b. Update on the Amherst Village Strategic Plan Committee

Chairman Ludt reported on having attended the most recent Village Strategic Plan Committee meeting. The five subcommittees that were formed include 1) Traffic & Safety; 2) Recreation; 3) Lighting & Utilities; 4) Community Development; and 5) Historic Character of the Village. Mr. Ludt is serving on the Traffic & Safety Subcommittee and the Community Development Subcommittee which may be more contentious since a number of subcommittee members would like to bring more commercial development to the village. Those members include Rick Crocker, Gordon Leedy, former Chairman of the Amherst Planning Board, and a lady from the Chamber of Commerce. Amity Moore and Will Ludt are the only two advocating for less commercialization. Larry McCoy did not feel it was appropriate to have a Chamber of Commerce representative on this Subcommittee. Andy Ouellette did not feel it was a conflict of interest.

Mr. Ludt indicated that the Board of Selectmen will ultimately decide on the proposals brought forward. Two additional public forums will be held, one on May 18th, prior to the presentation to the Select Board on June 8th.

c. 2015-Way Ahead for the Amherst Heritage Commission

Commission members listed a number of issues to be focused on over the next year.

- 1) Applying for CLG Grant
- 2) Inventory and Catalogue items in the vault and archives (Bill Veillette could be helpful)
- 3) Stonewall/Scenic Roads Project
- 4) Increase awareness/membership – Carolyn and Andy will continue membership
- 5) Barn Survey
- 6) Bean Grant – Foyer Restoration

Issues will be prioritized. Andy Ouellette suggested that the stonewall project will require funds and perhaps the Select Board will need a good reason to keep funds in the budget. Mr. Ouellette will schedule a stonewall subcommittee meeting to beat around the issue. Getting the mapping done is important and cumbersome and some money will be required to get the study done.

d. Updates from other Boards and Commissions

No updates provided.

III. Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2015

Mary Mahar moved to accept the March 12, 2015 meeting minutes, as amended. Seconded by Larry McCoy. Vote 4-0. Amendment: Section IV – Last sentence should read: Also, Mr. Ouellette stated that the current proposed pipeline route does not appear to affect any stone walls in the area, but further examination will be done.

IV. Commission Roundtable

None provided.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.