



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

**Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 7:30 PM**

I. Call to Order: Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Attendees: Will Ludt, Andy Ouellette, Larry McCoy, and Selectman Tom Grella. Also present: Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes. Absent: Bill Veillette, Carolyn Quinn, Mary Mahar, and Eric Hahn. No members of the public were in attendance.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. Update on NHDHR Grant

Chairman Ludt has received a second report from consultant, Katy Holmes, who has worked well with Jackie Marshall and Katrina Holman. When reporting on the farmstead project, Mr. Ludt wants to acknowledge the good work of town volunteers such as Jackie Marshall and Katrina Holman. Ms. Holmes has been unable to meet with the Nelsons due to inclement weather over the last several weeks. Will Ludt has been in touch with Cynthia Nelson and she is on board with the project. Ms. Holmes expects to wrap up her work in August.

b. Heritage Commission Input into the Amherst Village Strategic Plan Committee

Chairman Ludt reported that he had replaced Bill Veillette as the Heritage Commission representative on the Strategic Planning Committee. Data collection is complete, and five working groups have been identified in the areas of 1) Traffic & Safety; 2) Recreation; 3) Lighting & Utilities; 4) Community Development; and 5) Historic Character of the Village.

Will Ludt will serve on the Community Development and Traffic & Safety groups. He expects zoning and ordinance changes will come out of the Community Development team, and changes could be moved forward from the Traffic and Safety team that includes Police Chief Reams who is described as organized and well-spoken. The concern over Stop Signs was briefly discussed. Selectman Grella mentioned that all signs must now be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

Jamie Ramsay, Chairman of the Historic District Commission (HDC) is no longer able to participate on the Strategic Planning Committee because of other commitments. Larry McCoy expressed an interest in serving. Chairman Ludt suggested Mr. McCoy speak with Jamie Ramsay and get on the committee as soon as possible since there is likely only two more months of work to be done.

Mr. Ludt said he has been very vocal about his opposition to “over-developing the village”, and shared a Rolf Biggers’ depiction of what the village could be in the Year 2020 which he objected to because it is only one man’s opinion and should be marked as a DRAFT.

Chairman Ludt stated that another public forum will take place in May with a final presentation to the Board of Selectmen on June 8th.

c. 2015-Way Ahead for the Amherst Heritage Commission

Chairman Ludt asked attendees to think about what the commission may want to do and focus on over the next several years which can be discussed in more detail at the April meeting. Larry McCoy felt there are many ongoing projects and more that commission members can work on and get publicity for. Andy Ouellette suggested that a more productive discussion could be had with full member attendance.

d. Updates from other Boards and Commissions

Chairman Ludt stated that the application deadline for CLG grant funds had passed for this year, but the Commission will plan on applying in 2016. Also, Community Development Director, Colleen Mailloux, has begun this year's CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) process seeking volunteers from boards and committees to serve on the FY2016-2021 CIP Committee.

Chairman Ludt asked if anyone had any comments on the April Interdepartmental Review; in particular comments about the tennis courts being resurfaced and cabins being rebuilt at Camp Judaea on Baboosic Lake. Will Ludt will provide written feedback to Director Mailloux. Camp Judaea was founded in 1939 and provides a religious summer camping experience for children ages 8-15, primarily coming from cities.

Chairman Ludt mentioned that he had been working with SAU 39 regarding redoing the foyer of the Brick School and, as mentioned previously, applying residual Bean Foundation grant funds in the amount of \$3500 to the project. Will Ludt was advised by Jay Dinkel to write a letter seeking permission to use the funds. It is hoped the school could be used as a museum and opened to the public during the summertime. The full cost of the project is approximately \$25,000 to redo pipes, the ceiling and floors. The SAU is willing to do fundraising.

III. Approval of Minutes: January 8, 2015

Andy Ouellette moved to accept the January 8, 2015 meeting minutes, as amended. Seconded by Larry McCoy. Vote 5-0. Amendment: Line 29 - Change Poe to Paul. Chairman Ludt indicated that he liked the format of the minutes.

Andy Ouellette will double-check with Carolyn Quinn whether she had made contact with Maggie Paul to recruit students to help with the stonewall project.

IV. Commission Roundtable

Andy Ouellette stated that the stonewall project is moving along. Mr. Ouellette is interested in connecting with the UNH Cooperative Extension Service that offer a satellite mapping course that he would like to take. 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.

Chairman Ludt indicated that at a recent Conservation Commission meeting the purchase of the Gloria Wheeler property located at 2 Lynch Farm Road was discussed. There was some concern about drainage. Selectman Grella stated that the Conservation Commission and Board of Selectmen will hold a public hearing on the matter at its next Board meeting.

V. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.