



**Town of Amherst, NH
Historic District Commission
FINAL MINUTES**

Barbara Landry Conference Room

Thursday, 18 April 2019, 7:00 PM

*Historic District Commission members in attendance were: Jamie Ramsay, Chairman;
Chris Hall, Vice-Chairman; Doug Chabinsky; Sally Wilkins; Tom Grella, BOS
Ex-Officio; and Bill Rapf.*

Staff in attendance included: Simon Corson, Planner; Kristan Patenaude.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Jamie Ramsay called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**II. CASE #: PZ11171-040319 – GS Troop 11607 c/o Lori Mix, Amherst Town Green –
Conceptual discussion to install a pet waste pick up station on the Green by Town
Hall.**

Present: Lori Mix, Girl Scouts Margo and Lauren

The Girl Scouts presented the Commission with a detailed proposal for their Silver Award pet waste station. This is a 50 hour long project that they believe will help to improve the water quality in environment in Amherst. A pet waste station on the Green will reduce nonpoint source pollution going into the town's water system. The girls took a poll at last year's 4th of July event and found out that people preferred to see a pet waste station on either the Green or at PMEC. Selectman D'Angelo is their project leader and they will present to the Board of Selectmen at their April 29th meeting. The project has financial support from both the Lions Club and the Amherst Rotary.

The initial cost for the station is about \$215-245, and packs of 2000 biodegradable bags will cost \$85. The station will be installed right next to the trash can on the Green and DPW has agreed to empty it. Future Girl Scout troops will refill the bags as needed.

The Commission commented on how impressed they were with the girls' presentation. They unanimously supported the project.

Chairman Ramsay stated that the post should be a 4x4 white cedar post, as unobtrusive as possible.

33 **III. CASE #: PZ10984-013119 – Shaheen Properties LLC (Owner) – 148 Amherst Street –**
34 **Walt’s Service, PIN #: 017-103-000 – Request for approval to install a business sign to**
35 **identify the business and phone number. *Continued from March 21, 2019.***
36

37 Present: Walt Murray (Business owner)
38

39 Mr. Murray explained that, per the Commission’s suggestion, he created a mock-up of his
40 sign with the blue background changed to white. The proposed aluminum sign will be
41 white with black vinyl lettering.
42

43 In response to a question from Chairman Ramsay, Mr. Murray stated that the Amherst, NH
44 sign has tin letters and a board that is currently falling apart, but that will be fixed. That
45 sign has been on the building since 1951.
46

47 Mr. Hall stated that his only concern is that the new proposed sign might not be seen as
48 well as the current sign that’s on the building. There are almost no regulations for the
49 Commission to use to give guidance on this proposal. Multiple signs on the property should
50 have some symmetry to them, and so if the font and color is being mimicked from the
51 Amherst, NH sign below, that would fulfill this concern.
52

53 Mr. Hall showed the group some mock-ups that he made of different color signs on the
54 actual building. He explained that he would not want Mr. Murray to put up this new
55 proposed white sign, if it’s worse for his business than the original sign.
56

57 Mr. Chabinsky agreed that the proposed white sign would be almost invisible. This is a
58 business that needs to attract customers and then current sign there is not totally out of
59 character with the style of the Village.
60

61 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Chabinsky and SECONDED by Mr. Rapf to approve the sign*
62 *as it currently exists on the building.*
63

64 **FINDINGS:**

- 65 1. Building is prominent and in a highly visible location.
66 2. Commercial property; signage is the right of the owner.
67 3. National Registry #103, non-contributing property
68

69 *Voting: 4-1-1 (4 in favor, C. Hall opposed, S. Wilkins abstained); motion passes.*
70

71 **IV. CASE #: PZ11139-032719 – Anthony Sabatino (Owner), 17 Carriage Road, PIN #:**
72 **017-016-000 – Request for approval to pave existing gravel driveway with asphalt**
73 **materials.**
74

75 Present: Anthony Sabatino (Owner)
76

77 Mr. Sabatino explained that the proposal is to pave his gravel driveway as it is currently not
78 practical.

79 In response to a question from Chairman Ramsay, Mr. Sabatino stated that the granite
80 blocks leading up to the garage and the granite stone at the front door will remain.

81
82 Mr. Hall explained that this is the last gravel driveway on Carriage Road.

83
84 Ms. Wilkins stated that the ordinance clearly says not to pave driveways in the Historic
85 District, but that the Commission is not enforcing the ordinance. She questioned why they
86 have the ordinance.

87
88 **FINDINGS:**

- 89 1. Property is highly visible.
90 2. National Registry #16, contributing property.
91 3. Only driveway on Carriage Road not paved.

92
93 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Chabinsky and SECONDED by Mr. Grella to approve the*
94 *application as presented.*

95
96 In response to a question from Ms. Wilkins, Mr. Sabatino stated that his intent is to pave
97 over the 10x26 loam area pictured as well.

98
99 *Voting: 4-0-2 (4 in favor, C. Hall & S. Wilkins abstained).*

100
101 Mr. Ramsay explained to the applicant how the 30-day appeal process works, in case the
102 Historic Commission's decision was contested by an abutter or other party of interest.

103
104 **V. Other Business**

105
106 **1. Minutes – March 21, 2019**

107 *A MOTION was made by Chairman Ramsay and SECONDED by Mr. Chabinsky to table*
108 *the meeting minutes of March 21, 2019 until the next meeting.*

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

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112 *The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.*

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118 *Respectfully submitted,*
119 *Kristan Patenaude*