



**Town of Amherst, NH**  
**HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES**  
**Brick School Community Room**  
**2 Main Street**  
**Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM**

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7 **I. Call to Order:** Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Attendees:  
8 Chairman Will Ludt, Andy Ouellette, Lisa Montesanto, Conor Frain and John Bement.  
9 Mary Mahar, Larry McCoy, and Tom Grella were unable to attend. Also present were  
10 members of the Amherst Historic District Commission: Chairman Jamie Ramsay and  
11 member Chris Hall. Also present: John Robichaud of the SAU dropped by briefly, and  
12 Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes.

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14 **II. Topics of Discussion**

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16 **a. “Throw Back Thursday – Amherst Heritage”**

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18 Jaime Ramsay brought up the Milford Grange and Chairman Ludt said he had the  
19 opportunity to look through some old Grange records including “roll call” books. It was  
20 unclear whether the Grange was still active but Chairman Ludt felt that perhaps the  
21 Historical Society might have some documentation of interest. He said the building where  
22 meetings were held still stands on the left off Route 13.

23  
24 Chairman Ludt posed a few trivia questions. The Amherst Village Historic District was  
25 formed in what year by a committee of five people? 1970 was the answer. What year was  
26 the village put on the National Register? 1982. What year was the Heritage Commission  
27 formed? 2002. His final question was how to spell chrysanthemum.

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29 **b. Welcome to HDC Members**

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31 Chairman Lutz welcomed members of the Historic District Commission, Jamie Ramsay  
32 and Chris Hall. He also welcomed John Bement as an Alternate Member of the Heritage  
33 Commission and indicated that Mr. Bement is active with the Historical Society and works  
34 with the Conservation Commission. He will be a valuable member of the Heritage  
35 Commission.

36  
37 **c. Tour of the Brick School Foyer**

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39 Chairman Ludt referred back to a Historic District Commission (HDC) meeting attended  
40 by John Robichaud, Director of Facilities of SAU 39. He said the school district will be  
41 working on handicapped accessible plans in the spring and summer, and that these projects  
42 are a good way to get to understand and grow together in figuring out the best method to  
43 handle the work. He described the work that has been done and what still needs to be done  
44 to the Brick School foyer. Chairman Ludt said that Mr. Robichaud has been trying to raise  
45 money to redo the foyer area and that they are trying to not use public funds for the project.  
46 He said the Heritage Commission had residual funds from an Edwin and Elizabeth Bean  
47 grant – approximately \$3,500 – that could be put towards this project in trying to make the

48 foyer space more usable and to bring it back to what it looked like in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century  
49 (1854).

50  
51 Chairman Ludt indicated that it was Suzanne's last meeting as minute taker for the  
52 Heritage Commission. He presented her with a beautiful chrysanthemum and note of  
53 thanks.

54  
55 Commission members discussed the value of getting together from time-to-time with the  
56 Historical Society. Chairman Ludt said he'd like the Planning Board to interface with the  
57 HDC and Heritage Commission as well. Discussion ensued on how best to spread the  
58 word on the importance of like commissions and committees working together, particularly  
59 on matters affecting the village. Chairman Ludt said that while these entities are not  
60 legally required to come before the commissions to discuss future or ongoing plans, as a  
61 courtesy, it would be beneficial to do so.

62  
63 Jamie Ramsay said that Deb Butcher and Scott Tenney have been good about sharing  
64 information with HDC of any permit applications received within the historic district.  
65 There was mention that an inventory of upcoming town renovations, especially within the  
66 historic district, would be helpful. Chairman Ludt commented that Cemetery Trustees have  
67 selected a contractor to fix the stone wall along the cemetery at the Town Hall. Andy  
68 Ouellette stated that something must be done with the windows at the Town Hall but  
69 funding to redo them has been pushed back year after year.

70  
71 Chris Hall indicated that the HDC's focus is: 1) an annual event to highlight the work of  
72 the commission; 2) updating the website; 3) futuristic matters such as solar; and, 4)  
73 education/awareness. He said one thing that has been discussed for a long time is "how  
74 does one know when they are in the village"? He felt that a tasteful and strategically placed  
75 sign would be a positive approach to let people know they are in the village.

76  
77 Chairman Ludt said he has been attending the Conservation Commission (ACC) meetings  
78 and they received a request to do some metal detecting on public property (Bragdon Hill),  
79 and asked the Heritage Commission for a recommendation on whether this is permissible.  
80 Chairman Ludt said there is not much in state statutes that disallow metal detecting; it is  
81 disallowed on some state properties. He said he had spoken with Tanya (Krajcik) at the  
82 state's Division of Historical Resources (HRD) who informed him that unless a town has  
83 restrictions, it's hard to keep people out. He asked for help in researching the matter.  
84 Andy Ouellette agreed to research the matter and work with Chairman Ludt in presenting a  
85 recommendation to the ACC. Someone mentioned that Nashua has a "no metal detecting"  
86 policy that is limited to parks and recreation areas. It was unclear if the policy extended to  
87 conservation land. It was also mentioned that historians look at the historic significance of  
88 the location when determining a need to document what is found.

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90 **d. Holiday Refreshments with HDC**

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92 **III. Adjourn**

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94 The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.