

October 13, 2022

DRAFT

In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Conor Frain [6:38pm], Gordon Zuerndorfer, Linda Zuerndorfer, Brenda Perry, Lisa Montesanto, and Tom Grella – Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio.
Staff in attendance: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote).

1. Roll Call to Order

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

2. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage

None at this time.

3. Discussion of way ahead for the Cooperage

Will Ludt noted that the Corn Crib was given to the Town in 2003/2004 by Steve Desmarais. The nearby cooperage building was not part of that deed. It is a 19th century building that is, unfortunately in disrepair. A recent assessment of the structure showed that it could be repairable but that this would require a lot of work and money. He has discussed this with the Amherst Conservation Commission, as it manages the land the cooperage sits on, regarding if the building should be repaired or demolished. He has spoken with DPW regarding disposal of the wood if the building is demolished.

Gordon Zuerndorfer stated that, upon a visit to the building, it does not look likely to be repaired.

Will Ludt stated that there may be items inside the cooperage of interest. These could be placed in the corn crib. If the structure is demolished, the foundation could be kept, and a marker or plaque could be added.

Lisa Montesanto noted that potential artifacts could also be kept at the Historical Society.

In response to a question from Lisa Montesanto regarding a bid for renovation of the structure, Will Ludt explained that Doug Nelson offered his time to do so, and the Commission has agreed to give him a small stipend for his work. Unfortunately, Mr. Nelson passed away before the work could be undertaken and no one else has been interested in the project.

**Gordon Zuerndorfer moved to demolish the cooperage and salvage any items from inside that are worthwhile. Brenda Perry seconded.
6-0-0; motion carried unanimously.**

Conor Frain entered the meeting at 6:38pm.

4. Scenic Road and Scenic Setbacks – Potential Planning Board Warrant Article

Will Ludt explained that he has some interest in adding certain scenic roads and scenic setbacks in Town. A scenic setback requires a 100’ setback to the road. For a scenic road, any utility on the road must come before the Planning Board for approval of tree cutting. He has spoken with

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Cynthia Dokmo of the Planning Board, and only ten signatures are needed to place a warrant article for new scenic roads on the ballot to be voted on. He suggested that Walnut Hill Road and a section of Horace Greeley/Chestnut Hill Road could become scenic roads. A section of Boston Post Road and Old Mont Vernon Road could be included as scenic setbacks.

Lisa Montesanto noted that a warrant article to name Walnut Hill Road as a scenic road was put on the ballot years ago and failed. This could possibly have been due to lack of information and education regarding what it means for a road to be a scenic road. Will Ludt noted that the Board of Selectmen did not support this warrant article, and he would like to know why.

In response to a question from Gordon Zuerndorfer regarding the benefit of this designation for roads, Will Ludt stated that scenic road designations allow for the preservation of land, trees, and stone walls. For homeowners, it preserves trees and stone walls on their properties, while also allowing them to say that they live on a scenic road.

Lisa Montesanto noted that the current Master Plan seems to have a large push to preserve the Town's rural character. This might be a good time to pursue this item as part of that push.

Will Ludt noted that the Town has not approved a new scenic road since 1998.

Lisa Montesanto suggested including a group of roads in one warrant article. This could make more of a statement to the residents.

Gordon Zuerndorfer noted that some homeowners may think this designation would enforce additional rules and regulations on them.

Tom Grella suggested looking into if homes on scenic roads see an increase in their assessed value or not. He also suggested asking Nic Strong many of these questions, as she likely has the answers.

5. Draft Master Plan Discussions and Public Hearing

Will Ludt stated that a public hearing has been scheduled for the updated Master Plan draft on December 21, 2022, by the Planning Board.

6. Potential Native American Artifact Status

Brenda Perry stated that she will contact the Indigenous NH Collaborative Collective regarding the artifact on County Road.

7. Support to Camp Young Judaea History

Will Ludt stated that he spoke with the Director of Camp Young Judaea regarding a potential meeting date.

Brenda Perry stated that the Historical Society does not have any information on the history of the Camp and would like some.

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The Commission agreed to have some of its members attempt to meet with representatives of the Camp on Wednesday the 19th at 2:30pm, or Thursday the 20th at 12pm.

8. Roundtable

In response to a question from Tom Grella, Will Ludt noted that the Commission plans to propose the same budget for the upcoming year.

Lisa Montesanto noted that the Historical Society will be opening the Wigwam Museum tomorrow, for a Friday After 5 event.

Brenda Perry submitted a historical picture for the website. Will Ludt suggested it be sent to Taylor Hardner for inclusion.

Will Ludt noted that the Commission's new website is almost complete and ready to be shown to the public.

**Conor Frain moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 11, 2022, as presented. Gordon Zuerndorfer seconded.
7-0-0; motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*

Minutes approved: (enter date of meeting at which approved and then go to header, change DRAFT to APPROVED and include approved date in the footer.