

TOWN OF AMHERST
Heritage Commission

March 9, 2023

APPROVED

In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Conor Frain, Lisa Montesanto, Gordon Zuerndorfer, Linda Zuerndorfer, Brenda Perry, 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

Will Ludt gave a history of the Thornton Ferry I bridge. He stated that the Heritage Commission was invited to review the proposed construction of the new bridge at this location. The current bridge was built in 1970. A temporary bridge will be constructed until a permanent bridge can be installed.

3. Review of 2023 Look-Ahead Plans

Will Ludt stated that he would take on the grant item.

Brenda Perry stated that she would like to be involved with the Baboosic Lake interface. There is an issue with runoff and algae currently in the Lake.

Tom Grella stated that he is working on the Spring Road item.

The group discussed the Cooperage project. It was noted that the DPW would likely not demolish the structure themselves, as there was asbestos found inside. Lisa Montesanto asked who would be paying for the demolition. Will Ludt stated that this is unclear. Lisa Montesanto stated that she would work with Eric Slosek, DPW Director, on this item.

Will Ludt stated that he would work on the Joe English item.

Conor Frain stated that he would work on the Corn Crib trail steward item.

Regarding the Milford Rotary item, Tom Grella explained that the group is reviewing every Cabinet for the last 75 years to see what the Milford Rotary has been involved in and catalog that information. Will Ludt stated that he may reach out to become a speaker for the Rotary during one of their meetings.

The Commission discussed America 250. There will likely be a small event for that. Gordon Zuerndorfer stated that he is interested in what Lexington, MA, will be doing for this event.

Conor Frain and Will Ludt stated that they would work on the New Boston Space Station item.

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Brenda Perry stated that she has an issue with the Buck Meadow signage, as there could be a kiosk and proper signage placed at the original railroad station.

Conor Frain stated that he would like to work on the pauper cemetery item.

Will Ludt stated that he would work on asking for citizen photos for the new Commission website.

The Commission discussed what could be done with a grant. Gordon Zuerndorfer suggested an informational session regarding restoring or maintaining materials from older houses. Conor Frain suggested that the Commission could look and see what other Heritage Commissions are doing. Brenda Perry suggested inviting other commissions to a brainstorming session.

Linda Zuerndorfer suggested a heritage scavenger hunt around Town. The Commission agreed to work on a scavenger hunt.

4. Status of Discussions with Camp Young Judaea

Gordon Zuerndorfer explained that Camp Young Judaea was founded in 1939. The Camp was open to all children, all religions. This is considered the oldest co-ed Zionist camp in the United States. He gave additional details of the Camp's history such as that the Camp was open to all religions, there is supposedly a NH Chronicle report on the Camp though this has not yet been obtained, the Camp was visited by many famous people including Golda Meir, and that the current Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, attempted to visit the Camp in the 1990s but was unable, due to security reasons.

5. Date for Trail Steward Hike in April 2023

The Commission agreed to try to host this hike on May 6th to line up with Town-wide Clean-Up Day.

6. Minutes February 9, 2023

**Conor Frain moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 9, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Lisa Montesanto.
Vote: 7-0-0; all in favor.**

7. Roundtable

Conor Frain explained that the last entry for Ponemah Station was 1941 and that it was serving the Keene branch of the railroad.

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88 **Lisa Montesanto moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:26pm. Seconded by Brenda**
89 **Perry.**
90 **Vote: 7-0-0; all in favor.**

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92 *Respectfully submitted,*
93 *Kristan Patenaude*

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95 Minutes approved: April 13, 2023