TOWN OF AMHERST Amherst Heritage Commission

19 April 2023

APPROVED

Commission Members in Attendance: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, Lisa Montesanto, Brenda Perry,
 Gordon Zuerndorfer, Laura Zuerndorfer

4 1. Call to Order

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<u>TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:</u> Joint Session of Planning Board and Amherst Heritage Commission, (SHS, Wednesday, April 19, 2023; 1900); Potential acquisition of land between Baboosic Lake Road, Pond Parish Road and Grater Road- Curran Property

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10 3. Minutes: The commission was called to order at the Joint meeting with the Amherst 11 Planning Board. Mr Arnie Rosenblatt, Chair of the Amherst Planning Board, gave a short introduction as to the evening's procedure and introduced the speaker, Mr Jared Hardner, 12 13 Chair of the Amherst Conservation Commission. Mr Hardner proceeded to brief the commissions on the proposal to approve/disapprove the potential town acquisition of 3 14 parcels of land, combined 178 acres for a negotiated price of \$5.4M. After the presentation, 15 16 Mr Rosenblatt asked if the Heritage Commission had any questions or issues. Seeing none, 17 Mr Ludt thanked Mr Jared Hardner for his presentation. Mr Rossenblatt dismissed the Heritage Commission from the auditorium and to reconvene at the Heritage Commission's 18 19 time and place of location. The Heritage Commission left the auditorium and reconvened in 20 the Souhegan High School Band Room adjacent to the auditorium 21 22

- The Heritage Commission reconvened in the Band Room to discuss and vote on the potential
 acquisition.
- 25 Mr Will Ludt presented a short history of the Truell Saw Mill foundation on the property:
- 27 • Heritage Commission involvement is predominately to identify any historic resources on the property and to give a recommendation 28 o 19th Century Saw Mill, numerous stonewalls and several foundations 29 • Site is listed in NHDHR's Archeological Inventory (Site#: 27-HB-0539) 30 • Saw Mill remains located in Lot 6-7 31 Contains: Breached dam remains, dry laid fieldstone foundation of mill 32 foundation (80' x 30'), soil and stone levy/berm (300') to keep water from 33 34 flooding road 35 Design is an "undershot wheel" where water moved the wheel from the bottom to achieve its low energy power, vice "overshot wheel" where 36 37 water moved wheel from water on top- higher energy produced No known documented evidence of early history- need to further research 38 39 deeds Deed in 1862 of selling of mill from Truell to Charles Converse 40 . Appears in 1858 Chase Insurance maps of Amherst, but not in the 1893 41 42 map of town 43 Deed stated that mill was abandoned approximately in 1892

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(Map of 1858 Amherst Chase Insurance)

46 47 <u>Uses today</u>

- Situated between two Amherst Scenic Roads, Baboosic Lake Road and Pond Parish road, thus adding to and maintaining the Rural Character of the town (adhering to "maintaining rural character of Amherst" in the 2023 update of our Master Plan
 - Will be a respite location for potential ACC trails on the property
 - Site visit for public, school children to learn about the importance of saw mill in the 18th and 19th centuries
 - Easy access of the existing Pond Parish Trailhead and Parking Lot to the 300' berm/levy

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- After the short history discussion, there were several minutes of Commission discussions of the acquisition. Seeing no other discussion, the chair asked for a motion to take a vote on the approval of the acquisition. Mr Conor Frain made the motion to approve the acquisition of the
- 61 178 acre of the Curran property for the amount of \$5.4M; the motion was seconded by Ms Lisa
 62 Montesanto. Seeing that the motion was moved and seconded, with no discussion. A vote was
 63 taken
- 63 taken 64

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0	Vote will be a roundtable vote	e, done alphabetically when name is called:
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•	Conor Frain	Yes
•	Tom Grella	Absent
•	Will Ludt	Yes
•	Lisa Montesanto	Yes
•	Brenda Perry	Yes

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70	 Gordon Zuerndorfer 	Yes	
71	 Laura Zuerndorfer 	Yes	
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73	• Vote was unanimous, 6-0, with one member absent		
74	Seeing no other business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr Gordon Zuerndorfer, and		
75	seconded by Mr Conor Frain. Vote was taken in the affirmative and the meeting was adjourned.		
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70	Wgl		
78 79	Respectfully submitted,		
80	William Ludt, Chair		
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82	Minutes approved: (enter date of meeting at which approved and then go to header, change		
83	DRAFT to APPROVED and include approved date in the footer.		