

September 14, 2023

APPROVED

In attendance: Will Ludt, Tom Grella – Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio, Lisa Montesanto, John Bement, Laura Zuerndorfer.

1. Roll Call to Order

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. He explained that the Commission visited a spring site on Spring Road prior to the start of the meeting.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

2. “Throwback Thursday” – Amherst Heritage

Will Ludt stated that on August 24th, Tom Grella represented the Town by throwing out the first pitch at a Fisher Cats baseball game. Before the first pitch, there was an announcement regarding Tom Grella’s many accomplishments. Will Ludt expressed thanks to Tom Grella for his presence in the community over the years.

3. Support for Baboosic Lake B&M Rail Stop- Walnut Hill Road and the Embankment Road

Will Ludt explained that Amherst historically had three rail stops, along Route 122/Route 101, along Thornton Ferry Road I, and at Baboosic Lake. There is an interest in creating an awning 17’x9” “rail station” replica. This could be a spot for those walking/biking to relax along the potential rail trail. Chris Buchanan, Chair of the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee, recently presented an opportunity to the Board of Selectmen regarding a rail trail along the B&M Trail.

Will Ludt stated that he will be meeting with Town Staff regarding what items will need to be managed in order to complete the project. He will be contacting the abutting landowners regarding this rail stop project, along with continuing to work with the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. He will also be seeking a \$5,000 grant for this project. Private donations can also be accepted. There is a set of plans from 1901 for a rail stop that can be used to construct this historic replica.

Lisa Montesanto asked about a timeline for the project. Will Ludt explained that the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee estimated that they would know more about the rail trail portion of the project by November. A complete survey of the site will be carried out for the rail trail. The Commission could consider raising funds to complete a survey of the small section of the trail needed for this rail stop, in order to move forward with the grant application.

4. Street Study Committee Update

Will Ludt noted that the Village Streets Study Committee is doing research and considering various potential materials for upcoming road reconstruction in the Village. This group is

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meeting mainly regarding upcoming proposed road construction on Main Street, Carriage Road, Davis Lane, Jones Road, and Church Street. The Committee will be making a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen regarding a number of items related to these roads. Will Ludt noted that he reviewed the sidewalks around the Village and there are approximately 5-6 different materials used.

5. Pavers and Road Treatments Assistance

Will Ludt noted that Commissioners could consider this item and report back with any suggestions to be passed along to the Village Streets Committee.

6. Camp Young Judaea Written Progress

Will Ludt noted that Kristan Patenaude is working on this item. He stated that it will hopefully be completed prior to the next Commission meeting.

7. Minutes 8 June 2023, and 2 August 2023

Lisa Montesanto moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 8, 2023; and August 2, 2023, as presented. Seconded by John Bement.

Vote: 5-0-0.

Tom Grella moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. Seconded by John Bement.

Vote: 5-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*