



# Town of Amherst, NH

## HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Landry Conference Room  
Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Members of the commission in attendance included Andy Ouellette, Larry McCoy, Lisa Montesanto, and Tom Grella. Those absent included: Carolyn Quinn, Mary Mahar, Bill Veillette and Eric Hahn.

### **II. Topics of Discussion**

#### **a. CLG Grant Status – Final Update**

Chairman Ludt reported that the Town received \$11,400. All reports are in and the experience has been very successful. Three of the four farmsteads surveyed are eligible for Federal registry. The fourth farm is eligible for State registry. A seven-page report is available at the Town Library. A brief discussion took place on what it means to be on the State and/or Federal registry. Lisa Montesanto said it “ups the value” of the property. Chairman Ludt will research the matter and bring forward information.

Chairman Ludt expressed thanks to all those who were so helpful throughout the process; namely, Ruslyn Vear, Jackie Marshall, Katrina Holman and the homeowners. Commission members discussed whether to issue a public announcement. It was mentioned that the NH Historical Society, where Amherst resident, Bill Dunlap, serves as President, accepts information items from around the State to place on their website. Chairman Ludt will follow up.

#### **b. Partnership Event – January 30, 2016**

As was mentioned at the October Commission meeting, Freedom’s Way, made up of 37 Massachusetts communities and 8 NH communities, has asked member communities to host an event as part of their “connecting communities” program. The Heritage Commission has committed to hosting a snowshoe or hike event on January 30, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at the PMEC. Mary Mahar has volunteered to lead the effort which will include coffee/hot chocolate and donuts. Chairman Ludt is working with Recreation Director, Craig Fraley, who will have snowshoes available. Dogs are permitted. Chairman Ludt is working on a flyer for the event. Recreation Department staff will be available along with members of the Amherst Conservation Commission.

Chairman Ludt mentioned that on December 13<sup>th</sup>, Hollis and Milford are hosting a two-hour hike at Monson Village, also part of the “Connecting Communities” initiative.

**c. Digital Mapping – Working Group Update**

Chairman Ludt said that he and John Harvey, Chairman of the Amherst Conservation Commission, are working on digitally mapping trails on “MyTourGuide” which should be ready by January 30<sup>th</sup> for the snowshoeing event. Mr. Harvey has taken a lead in developing digital trail tours.

**d. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions**

Andy Ouellette, who also serves on the Ways and Means Committee, brought Commission members up-to-date on ongoing budget discussions. Funding the repair/replacement of the windows at the Town Hall was discussed. The Community Development Department is looking to update existing road standards which are 40 years old. Chairman Ludt will get in touch with Colleen Mailloux, Director of Community Development, to let her know that the Heritage Commission would like to be involved, given the impact on scenic roads.

Mr. Ouellette also indicated that the town is interested in preserving town records. Chairman Ludt will contact Town Administrator, Jim O’Mara, and Library Director, Amy Lapointe, to offer the Heritage Commission’s assistance with cataloguing and maintaining historic records.

Mr. Ouellette said that the initial proposed budget is a working document. Next week, members of the Ways & Means Committee and the Selectmen will be meeting with department heads. The Board of Selectmen hope to finalize the budget by December 14<sup>th</sup>. Funding for the Heritage Commission remains part of the Community Development budget.

Lisa Montesanto stated that the Amherst Historical Society has raised about \$3,500 for the Wigwam Museum that has structural problems.

Chairman Ludt said that at a Conservation Commission meeting last night, Rich Hart of the Planning Board mentioned that LaBelle Wines purchased the 40-acre Bragdon property located across the street from the winery. The Heritage Commission will have an opportunity to comment when the matter comes before the Planning Board in 2016. Rumor has it that LaBelle is hoping to provide a wedding and other event venue, similar to that offered by the Bedford Village Inn.

Chairman Ludt learned at the Conservation Commission meeting that Kinder Morgan (KM) will file their application for a proposed natural gas pipeline with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on November 20<sup>th</sup>. The Conservation Commission is in dialogue about KM’s mitigation program and the proposed route’s impact on wetlands

95 **III. Minutes**

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97 Andy Ouellette moved, second by Larry McCoy, to accept the minutes of the  
98 Commission's October 8, 2015 meeting, as amended. Motion passed 4-0-1 (Tom Grella  
99 abstained).

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101 **IV. Commission Roundtable**

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103 **V. Adjourn**

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105 The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.  
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