



# Town of Amherst, NH

## HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

Barbara Landry Meeting Room

2 Main Street

Thursday, September 11, 2014 at 7:30 PM

**I. Call to Order:** Acting Chairman Andy Ouellette called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Attendees: Andy Ouellette, Carolyn Quinn, Mary Mahar, and Selectman Tom Grella. Also present: Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes. Absent: Will Ludt, Bill Veillette, Larry McCoy, and Eric Hahn. No members of the public were in attendance.

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

#### **a. Update on NHDHR Grant**

Andy Ouellette provided an update on the farmstead survey grant. The RFP was submitted and approved by NH DHR. Potential bidders were sent the RFP and include: Lynne Emerson Monroe of Kensington, NH; Elizabeth Hengen of Concord, NH; Jenna Higgins of Portsmouth, NH; Katy Holmes of Newton, MA; Lisa Mausolf of Reading, MA; David Ruell of Ashland, NH; and Paula Sagerman of Brattleboro, VT.

Proposals are due back by September 23, 2014. Next steps include:

- identifying one more property
- evaluating proposals and selecting a consultant
- briefing the Board of Selectmen and getting their approval
- forwarding selected consultant name to NHDHR
- notify selected consultant of winning proposal, pending approval by the Governor and Executive Council

It is hoped that the contract will begin mid to late October 2014.

#### **b. Status Update: Amherst Village Strategic Plan**

Mr. Ouellette stated that a project committee had been formed which includes Bill Veillette as the Commission representative. Carolyn Quinn will serve as an Alternate. Selectman Tom Grella reported that many residents had expressed an interest in serving on the committee. Mike Akillian, Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee, is looking to schedule a meeting of the group by the end of September.

There was discussion on the value of the undertaking. Commission member Quinn indicated that she hoped things didn't change too drastically given what the village means to the town. The need for stop signs and speeding traffic was mentioned. Selectmen Grella indicated that traffic should slow some once the bridge re-opens. He expects all signage and structures redirecting traffic will come down within the next four weeks.

#### **c. Interdepartmental Review – Latest Documents**

##### **i. 37 Broadway**

51 An application made to the Planning Board was sent to the Commission for comment which are  
52 due to Colleen Mailloux, Community Development Director, by September 19, 2014.  
53 Comments should be sent to Will Ludt by September 17<sup>th</sup>.  
54

55 The owner wishes to raise the building. Commission members were provided with photos.  
56 The house is on the historic home survey. Andy Ouellette felt that it might be a good idea to  
57 document the architectural merit around the lake. Changes to the house will change the  
58 character of the lake. Mr. Ouellette stated feels that the modest cottages around the lake do not  
59 individually offer historical significance but collectively they do.  
60

61 Selectman Grella mentioned that the house has been in the same family since it was built and  
62 the owner is interested in preserving the historical significance of the home. The owner is  
63 retiring and plans to live in the home. Anticipated changes include the overhang and the  
64 window. No vote was taken. Mary Mahar suggested that Will Ludt contact the owner to  
65 indicate the Commission's interest and offer assistance as necessary.  
66

67 **d. Updates from other Boards and Commissions Attendance**  
68

69 Selectman Grella reported that things were working out well with the new Community  
70 Development Director, Colleen Mailloux. No further updates were made.  
71

72 **III. Approval of Minutes: August 14, 2014.**  
73

74 Mary Mahar moved to accept with amendments the August 14, 2014 meeting minutes. Seconded  
75 by Andy Ouellette. Vote: 3-0-1 (Selectman Grella abstained).  
76

77 **IV. Commission Roundtable**  
78

79 Further discussion took place regarding the Strategic Planning process. Commission members  
80 hope to see a meeting of the minds on "preserving" rather than "changing" what the village has to  
81 offer. Speed and traffic is the number one concern.  
82

83 Andy Ouellette mentioned that too many sidewalks lend to an "urban" feel and asked if the Police  
84 Department had any records of speeding charges. Selectman Grella reported that the police have  
85 "all kinds of records". He loves to see people walking about and mentioned that the sidewalk  
86 project would be done in concert with the State's "Safe Routes to School" initiative, and is  
87 contingent on receiving state funds.  
88

89 Andy Ouellette reported that he had sent out an email in August and would report back on the  
90 stonewall project at the next meeting. Mr. Ouellette met with Gail Stout regarding the Registry of  
91 Deeds. As it turns out the town had microfiche files in the vault, but trying to trace stone walls in  
92 this manner is not workable.  
93

94 **V. Adjourn**  
95

96 Selectman Grella moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Mary Mahar. Vote 4-0.  
97