



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Town Hall – Landry Conference Room
Thursday, October 8, 2015 at 7:30 PM

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. Members of the commission in attendance included Andy Ouellette, Carolyn Quinn, and Mary Mahar. Those absent included: Lisa Montesanto, Bill Veillette, Larry McCoy, Tom Grella, and Eric Hahn.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. MyTour Guide Working Group

Chairman Ludt recapped the meeting held last month where a demonstration was provided by Paul Davis, CEO of MyTourGuide and Travel Brains. Chairman Ludt indicated that the MyTourGuide software allowed the creation of itineraries and tours that can be downloaded and played on mobile devices and personal computers. The digital tours are self-guided for driving or walking. Mr. Ludt said that it would be a good thing to do and the Conservation Commission has been working with it. A follow-up meeting is scheduled at the Brick School on October 20th.

b. CLG Grant Status

Chairman Ludt stated that the farmstead survey is nearly completed. He expects the final report and the state reimbursement by month's end. It appears that three of the four properties are eligible for National Registry and the fourth eligible for State Registry. Katy Holmes did a good job. The State has forwarded all the information to the National Park Service. Presently waiting to hear from the State on conclusion of the project.

c. Stonewall Maintenance/Repair

Andy Ouellette distributed a draft "white paper" that still needs editing and fact checking but was provided as a means to develop a framework for the work to be done on maintaining and repairing stone walls, and to get the conversation started about what should be done. The paper is a "work in progress" which should be of interests to all land use boards. The Table of Contents also needs to be augmented. Subcommittee members who have been working on this project include Andy Ouellette, Mary Mahar, Larry McCoy and Carolyn Quinn. It was suggested that Lisa Montesanto may be interested in serving on the subcommittee.

Mr. Ouellette said he has not found anything quick and efficient to complete the mapping process but learned from Katy Holmes that aerial shots were taken and may be available through the Cooperative Extension Service. Mr. Ouellette would like to get a copy of town aerial shots that were taken in 1952, 1964, 1974, 1981, 1993 and 1999. The 1974, 1981, and 1993 shots were done at a larger scale and hopefully shot in early Spring or Fall. The subcommittee is looking to schedule an appointment with Jonathan Nute of the NH Cooperative Extension.

Mr. Ouellette said that once the mapping is completed, research can begin on developing and/or adopting relevant ordinances. Mr. Ouellette stated that many stone walls are on private property, others are lost, and yet others “won’t be there forever if we don’t stem the tide”. Still, he does not envision the issuance of mandates, but would rather come up with incentives so that people would want to conserve their walls.

Mr. Ouellette said work will include researching statutes and ordinances developed by the States of Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Connecticut, in particular, and the towns of Milford, Hollis, Bedford, and Merrimack. Carolyn Quinn earlier distributed a document on stone walls produced by the NH Division of Historical Resources. Also, three books written by geology professor, Dr. Robert Thorson, of the University of Connecticut and an expert on the preservation of stone walls, are available at the town library.

Lindabury Orchard Barn:

Chairman Ludt brought up the Lindabury Orchard barn and whether the barn should be fixed or moved. As previously reported, two estimates were sought. One estimate came in at \$26,000 and the other \$30,000 plus. Both estimators are professional barn renovators, and indicated that the property is in bad shape and has no historical value. Chairman Ludt provided the information to the Conservation Commission who had asked for the Heritage Commission’s opinion.

There was brief discussion on property that is for sale on 122 heading towards Hollis. The property would be a good playing field and would make a nice trail since it connects to conservation land. Department of Recreation Director, Craig Fraley, has been in discussion on various uses of the property. Perhaps the Heritage Commission could serve as ombudsman.

Chairman Ludt asked that committee members get back to him by October 21st on a number of “requests for comment” items sent by the Community Development Department. None appeared to impact any Heritage Commission issues.

Chairman Ludt mentioned that Freedom’s Way is asking member communities to host an event in “connecting communities”. In the past, a trail hike was held. Perhaps a snowshoeing event with hot chocolate and other refreshments served at the PMEC may be possible.

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

97
98 Chairman Ludt mentioned that the Conservation Commission has been doing a resource
99 survey similar to what the Commission did in 2009. Information gathered may be helpful
100 with the stone walls project. The survey is almost ready to be published.
101

102 **III. Adjourn**

103
104 The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.
105
106
107