



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

Barbara Landry Meeting Room

2 Main Street

Thursday, September 8, 2016 at 5:00 PM

I. Call to Order: Joint Meeting with the Amherst Heritage Commission and the Amherst Historic District Commission.

Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Heritage Commission Members in attendance: Chairman Will Ludt, Mary Mahar, Lisa Montesanto, and newly appointed member, Conor Frain. Absent: Andy Ouellette, Larry McCoy, and Selectman Tom Grella. Two members of the Historic District Commission in attendance were Christopher Hall and Helen Rowe. A few members of the public were in attendance.

Chairman Ludt welcomed and introduced Nadine Miller, Preservation Project Reviewer at the NH Division of Historical Resources. She provided an overview of the Certified Local Government (CLG) program which is designed to provide an opportunity for local governments to become more directly involved in identifying, evaluating, protecting, promoting and enhancing the educational economic value of local properties of historic, architectural and archeological significance.

The CLG was created by the 1980 amendments to the National Historic Preservation Act and requires that the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) designate at least 10 percent of its annual Historic Preservation Fund allocation from the Department of the Interior's National Park Service to local governments that have become Certified Local Governments. Amherst is one of 21 CLGs in the state.

A CLG must fulfill certain requirements indicating its commitment to local preservation. The Historic District and/or Heritage Commissions serve as an advisory body to the municipal government and become the coordinating body for municipal preservation activities. It prepares reports on National Register of Historic Places nominations, sponsors public information programs on historic preservation, and prepares applications for matching grants from the CLG share of the state's annual Historic Preservation Fund allocation (\$600,000 per year). The matching grants available to municipalities that have become CLGs can be used to fund community preservation activities such as surveys, National Register, preservation planning and educational projects. In some years, grants are also available for architectural plans and specifications, engineering reports, and even "bricks and mortar" work on National Register properties.

Every four years DHR conducts a performance standard evaluation. Commission members should attend at least one DHR-approved information or educational meeting per year, pertaining to the work and functions of CLGs, historic district commissions or to other historic preservation topics. Chairman Ludt indicated that he attends such meetings as he is able.

Ms. Miller went over the application timeline, a two year grant cycle. Annually in October, the DHR will notify local governments of the estimated amount of CLG funding available for the

48 coming fiscal year, and will solicit notices of intent to apply for these funds from CLGs. In
49 November, it will distribute detailed requests for proposals, information on annual priorities, and
50 application forms, to CLGs. Nadine Miller went over criteria for selection and responded to a
51 number of questions regarding window restoration, stone walls, and conservation lands.
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53 Ms. Miller went over all of the survey questions that Amherst was able to answer positively.
54 Everyone was invited to attend an event hosted by DHR entitled “We’re Golden: Celebrating 50
55 Years of the National Historic Preservation Act,” a daylong symposium focusing on historic
56 preservation in the Granite State. The celebration will be held on October 28th in Concord and is
57 free of charge. More information can be found at <https://www.nh.gov/nhdhr> or by calling 271-
58 3483.
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60 **II. Adjourn**

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62 The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.