



Town of Amherst, NH
HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES
Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Thursday, November 10, 2016 at 7:30 PM

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2 **I. Call to Order:** Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Attendees:
3 Chairman Will Ludt, Andy Ouellette, Mary Mahar, Lisa Montesanto, Larry McCoy, and Tom
4 Grella. Also present: Gordon Leedy, Director of Community Development, and Suzanne
5 Beauchesne taking minutes.

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7 **II. Topics of Discussion**

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9 **A. "Throw Back Thursday – Amherst Heritage"**

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11 Prior to introducing Amherst's new Community Development Director, Chairman Lutz
12 explained that meetings are started off with stories related to Amherst's heritage and asked if
13 anyone had any election tidbits they would want to share. Andy Ouellette who was born and
14 raised in Amherst said during the 1976 election there was an independent by the name of
15 Barry Commoner on the ballot. He was very intrigued by his ideas and voted for him in the
16 primary. Then the Amherst Citizen came out with the election results and Mr. Commoner
17 received two votes.

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19 **B. Potential CLG Grant Opportunities**

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21 Chairman Ludt stated that the Historic District Commission is also interested this time
22 around and introduced Gordon Leedy who has been talking with the NHDHR staff.
23 Chairman Ludt said there was a proposal that would affect the Heritage Commission as well
24 as the Historic District Commission. Gordon Leedy said he had been a resident of Amherst
25 for almost 19 years and had been a member of the Planning Board for most of those 19 years.
26 He said he wanted to give his commitment to pay attention to all of the Boards and provide
27 support where they can. Director Leedy said he had spoken to Laura Black of the NHDHR
28 who he knew from having served on the Board of Planning NH. He asked Ms. Black for help
29 to achieve the goals of the commissions and she directed him to Nadine Miller. Chairman
30 Ludt indicated that Nadine Miller had addressed the Commission just a few months ago.
31 Director Leedy said there had been a problem with the windows at the Brick School and
32 indicated to Ms. Miller that they were looking for funding opportunities. Ms. Miller
33 mentioned the CLG and the Commission Assistance and Mentorship Program (CAMP).
34 They will bring three or four members of their group, the National Alliance for Preservation
35 Commission, to assist with regulatory review and the role of the commissions. Ms. Miller
36 said if the commission applied for the program "they would be very competitive". Chairman
37 Ludt indicated that in the past the Heritage Commission has received two CLG grants. The
38 process is that a Letter of Intent goes out, they evaluate it and provide feedback. If approved,
39 then the proposal is sent. Director Leedy figures they would need to come up with about
40 \$11,000 (\$7,000 payment to CAMP, and about \$4,200 to \$4,600 matching funds). He said
41 the match money could be "in kind" and the cash outlay may not be more than a couple

thousand dollars which he would have in his budget and has spoken to Town Administrator Jim O'Mara about that. Director Leedy feels this would help position "our commissions to be in a good place going forward" and he will be in a position to be a resource. Chairman Ludt said part of this component is public education and how best to reach the citizenry. He said two years ago he attended a CAMP session in Keene. It was two days of training and briefings. The program is geared more to the Historic District Commission who deal with regulation rather than the Heritage Commission that is advisory. He said perhaps they might reconsider the demotion delay that failed five years ago.

C. Update on Bertha Rogers Grant

Chairman Ludt said he discussed with the Town Clerk that work on the vault would be best done after the election since the Town Clerk's office has a lot going on and must store Tuesday election ballots for 22 months. Vault work will start next week or the week after and Chairman Ludt will circle back to everyone via email.

D. Potential New Heritage Commission Member

Chairman Ludt said he met with new member, John Bement, who is active with the Historical Society and works with the Conservation Commission. He has submitted a letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Ludt provided a letter of support. By the December meeting, Mr. Bement should be on board. Conor Frain is on as an Alternate. Chairman Ludt said both will be very good additions to the Commission.

E. 15 Minute Video – "Freedom's Way National Heritage Area: A Mosaic of Natural Beauty" – taken up at the end of the meeting

Chairman Lutz presented a 15 minutes video entitled "Freedom's Way National Heritage Area: A Mosaic of Natural Beauty".

F. Heritage Commission Partnership Event – January 29, 2017 at PMEC

Chairman Ludt said he signed up again this year to host a snowshoe event at the PMEC as a way of getting visibility with the public. He said refreshments will be served and they will have two sessions as was done last year. It was suggested the morning session be for beginners and the afternoon be more for the intermediate snowshoer.

G. Updates from Other Boards and Commissions Attendance

Mary Mahar said the Zoning Board was evaluating a variance at a place on Milford Road which is a small lot by the lake. Director Leedy said it is unbuildable without a variance. Director Leedy said there were two other properties before the Zoning Board. One is the flea market and auto show site where they want to do an elderly housing project. The second is the LaBelle Winery expansion. Abutters have requested a rehearing which has been granted. Chairman Ludt said the Commission's interested in both properties are the old buildings. Director Leedy said LaBelle has stated they will preserve the barn and the house. Director Leedy said there is significant expansion proposed in the back. There is a 100 foot setback from Route 101 so they will not be able to add to the front of the building. LaBelle winery stated that they have made a commitment to be as appropriate and sensitive to the old structures as they can be.

Chairman Ludt said he attended the Conservation Commission meeting. Discussion focused on the budget and he was asked to sit on a subcommittee on trails.

Chairman Ludt said that as a way of communicating with the SAU and HDC he would invite them to the next meeting of the Heritage Commission on December 8th to be held at the Brick School. He said the SAU is trying to raise money to redo the foyer area. The space has been opened up and could be used as a museum and restored to 1854. Chairman Ludt again mentioned that funds remain from the previous Bean grant that could be used for this project.

Andy Ouellette provided an update on his communications with Sara Siskavich/NRPC regarding the Nashua Regional Planning Commission's technology that would aid in locating stone walls. He said Sara was having some luck with ESIR tools. Mr. Ouellette said he was impressed with the LIDAR technology that was developed in collaboration with many entities.

H. Minutes: Current on All Minutes

I. Adjourn

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