



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

Brick School Community Room
Thursday, December 8, 2016 at 7:00 PM

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2 **I. Call to Order:** Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
3 Attendees: Chairman Will Ludt, Andy Ouellette, Lisa Montesanto, Conor Frain and
4 John Bement. Mary Mahar, Larry McCoy, and Tom Grella were unable to attend.
5 Also present were members of the Amherst Historic District Commission: Chairman
6 Jamie Ramsay and member Chris Hall. Also present: John Robichaud of the SAU
7 dropped by briefly, and Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes.
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9 **II. Topics of Discussion**

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11 **a. “Throw Back Thursday – Amherst Heritage”**

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13 Jaime Ramsay brought up the Milford Grange and Chairman Ludt said he had the
14 opportunity to look through some old Grange records including “roll call” books. It
15 was unclear whether the Grange was still active but Chairman Ludt felt that perhaps
16 the Historical Society might have some documentation of interest. He said the
17 building where meetings were held still stands on the left off Route 13.
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19 Chairman Ludt posed a few trivia questions. The Amherst Village Historic District
20 was formed in what year by a committee of five people? 1970 was the answer. What
21 year was the village put on the National Register? 1982. What year was the Heritage
22 Commission formed? 2002. His final question was how to spell “chrysanthemum”.
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24 **b. Welcome to HDC Members**

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26 Chairman Ludt welcomed members of the Historic District Commission, Jamie
27 Ramsay and Chris Hall. He also welcomed John Bement as an Alternate Member of
28 the Heritage Commission and indicated that Mr. Bement is active with the Historical
29 Society and works with the Conservation Commission. He will be a valuable
30 member of the Heritage Commission.
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32 **c. Tour of the Brick School Foyer**

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34 Chairman Ludt referred back to a Historic District Commission (HDC) meeting
35 attended by John Robichaud, Director of Facilities of SAU 39. He said the school
36 district will be working on handicapped accessible plans in the spring and summer,
37 and that these projects are a good way to get to understand and grow together in
38 figuring out the best method to handle the work. He described the work that has been
39 done and what still needs to be done to the Brick School foyer. Chairman Ludt said

that Mr. Robichaud has been trying to raise money to redo the foyer area and that they are trying to not use public funds for the project. He said the Heritage Commission had residual funds from an Edwin and Elizabeth Bean grant – approximately \$3,500 – that could be put towards this project in trying to make the foyer space more usable and to bring it back to what it looked like in the late 19th century (1854).

Chairman Ludt indicated that it was Suzanne’s last meeting as minute taker for the Heritage Commission. He presented her with a beautiful poinsettia and note of thanks.

Commission members discussed the value of getting together from time-to-time with the Historical Society. Chairman Ludt said he’d like the Planning Board to interface with the HDC and Heritage Commission as well. Discussion ensued on how best to spread the word on the importance of like commissions and committees working together, particularly on matters affecting the village. Chairman Ludt said that while these entities are not legally required to come before the commissions to discuss future or ongoing plans, as a courtesy, it would be beneficial to do so.

Jamie Ramsay said that Deb Butcher and Scott Tenney have been good about sharing information with HDC of any permit applications received within the historic district. There was mention that an inventory of upcoming town renovations, especially within the historic district, would be helpful. Chairman Ludt commented that Cemetery Trustees have selected a contractor to fix the stone wall along the cemetery at the Town Hall. Andy Ouellette stated that something must be done with the windows at the Town Hall but funding to redo them has been pushed back year after year.

Chris Hall indicated that the HDC’s focus is: 1) an annual event to highlight the work of the commission; 2) updating the website; 3) futuristic matters such as solar; and, 4) education/awareness. He said one thing that has been discussed for a long time is “how does one know when they are in the village”? He felt that a tasteful and strategically placed sign would be a positive approach to let people know they are in the village.

Chairman Ludt said he has been attending the Conservation Commission (ACC) meetings and they received a request to do some metal detecting on public property (Bragdon Hill), and asked the Heritage Commission for a recommendation on whether this is permissible. Chairman Ludt said there is not much in state statutes that disallow metal detecting; it is disallowed on some state properties. He said he had spoken with Tanya (Krajcik) at the state’s Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) who informed him that unless a town has restrictions, it’s hard to keep people out. He asked for help in researching the matter. Andy Ouellette agreed to research the matter and work with Chairman Ludt in presenting a recommendation to the ACC and to the BOS. Chairman Ludt mentioned that Nashua has a “no metal detecting” policy that is limited to parks and recreation areas. It was unclear if the policy extended to conservation land. It was also mentioned that historians look at

86 the historic significance of the location when determining a need to document what is
87 found.
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89 **d. Holiday Refreshments with HDC**

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91 **III. Adjourn**

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93 The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.