



**Town of Amherst, NH  
AMHERST HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES  
FINAL MINUTES**

**Landry Conference Room**

**Tuesday, 20 February 2018, 7:30 PM**

Regular Members in attendance were: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, Mary Mahar, Tom Grella,  
and Lisa Montesanto

Alternate Members in attendance were: John Bement

Also in attendance: Simon Corson, Planner

Recorder: Kristan Patenaude

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order sharply at 7:28 PM.

**II. Topics of Discussion**

The group greeted prospective member Danielle Pray. Ms. Pray explained that she has an interest in building and the early history of the town.

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

Ms. Mahar explained that she was talking with friends of hers who grew up in Amherst and went to school at the Brick School. She stated that public school was taught in the building from 1854-1967. Students travelled between the school and the Town Hall building in order to have lunch and gym. Mr. Ludt stated that there is actually still a basketball court on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Brick School building, but it's now covered with insulation.

Mr. Ludt stated that there was a speaker last month at the Congregational Church who discussed churches as town meeting houses in the past. Mr. Ludt also stated that there was a Mont Vernon citizen who gave a talk regarding a friend who had once stayed at the Mont Vernon hotel.

**b. Feedback – North Hampton Heritage Commission Meeting – 18 January 2018**

Mr. Ludt stated that he and Ms. Montesanto went to the North Hampton Heritage Commission meeting in January. The group seems to be faced with many of the same issues that the Amherst Heritage Commission deals with. The group discussed having all of the Amherst boards meet together more often.

**c. Heritage Commission Mapping Resource – Community Development**

Mr. Corson explained that he, Mr. Ludt, and Mr. Gordon Leedy met to discuss the group's 2018 goals. They talked about the 2009 Historic Resource Survey and how it would be great to have a mapping resource that makes the data tabular. Mr. Corson has created a map and, so far, added 20 of the survey spots for the Commission to review. Mr. Corson has plans to add all of the survey data to the map, and explained that this base map could easily become an app or story map in the future.

The group discussed what other pieces of information they'd like to possibly include on the map.

In response to a question from Mr. Ludt, Mr. Corson explained that this is a tool for the Heritage Commission to use. It can be examined during the development of future projects to see if there are any areas of interest that the Commission would need to know about. It also encourages the public to look through this information.

Mr. Ludt explained his thought of breaking the town into neighborhood heritage areas. These would be a step or two down from the historic district, and would give the public something identifiable to be proud of.

The group discussed gathering any other heritage resource data they know of and getting it to Mr. Corson within the coming weeks.

**d. Review of Draft Heritage Commission Tri-fold Brochure**

The Commission reviewed a draft tri-fold informational brochure created by Ms. Patenaude. The group discussed other pieces of information that could be displayed in the brochure and where it could be distributed.

**e. Town Hall Vault Project Progress and Presentation to the BOS – 12 February 2018**

Mr. Ludt explained that he gave a presentation to the Board of Selectmen on February 12 regarding the finalization of the vault project. It was agreed that Ruslyn Vear, the reference librarian, will be the point person if someone has questions regarding the items in the vault, or if someone wants to see the documents or do research.

**f. Roundtable Discussions and Topics**

Mr. Frain stated that he's been in contact with Marie Grella regarding the upcoming visit of the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall. There will be fundraising and volunteer opportunities that the Commission can help with. There will be an

Amherst Flag Day 5k coming up in June. There will also be volunteer opportunities while the wall is at the high school, from July 18-23, as it will be available to the public 24 hours a day. The official website for the wall's visit to Amherst is [movingwallnh.org](http://movingwallnh.org).

In regards to the WWI commemoration event, Ms. Grella is more than happy to help, as soon as her commitment to the moving wall has eased.

Ms. Montesanto explained that the Historic Society held a presentation on the Wigwam structure. Money will need to be raised through fundraisers to stabilize and preserve the building. The roof and joint have cracks and are starting to pull.

Ms. Montesanto also stated that the Questers are working on securing money in order to work on the window at the Brick School.

**g. Minutes Approval – 11 January 2018**

*A MOTION was made by Mr. Frain and SECONDED by Ms. Mahar to accept the meeting minutes from January 11, 2018 as amended.*

*Voting: all aye; motion carried unanimously.*

**III. Adjourn**

Mr. Ludt adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristan Patenaude*