

TOWN OF AMHERST
Heritage Commission

November 14, 2019

FINAL

In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Conor Frain – Vice Chair, Lisa Montesanto, and Brenda Perry (alternate).

Staff in attendance: Kristan Patenaude – Minute Taker

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:27 pm.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage

Brenda Perry brought in a couple of copies of the Cabinet’s 100th anniversary issue.

Chairman Ludt showed the group an historic picture of Route 101 around WWII. It shows what is now the corner of Mack Hill Road and Manchester Road. In the picture, historic road signs, street signs and buildings can be seen. Some of the barns shown are no longer standing. The group discussed how different Amherst may have been if the bypass wasn’t created.

2. Josiah Parker Trail Spur to Corn Crib Support Update

Chairman Ludt stated that he, Brenda Perry, John Harvey (ACC), and Rob Clemens (ACC) went out to scout the route a couple of weeks ago. They discovered that the land behind the Corn Crib, which was thought to be owned by the town, is actually deeded to the Association there. There is no easement on the land currently and the deed calls out that the Heritage Commission will maintain the corn crib; it is otherwise silent on who maintains the other smaller shed building there. The town does have an easement on the land that the trail spur will be on. There is a possibility that the ACC will continue the trail along the brick wall down towards the Pond Parish parking lot. The ACC has asked for an evaluation of the smaller shed building to be done, to see if it has any historic value. Chairman Ludt contacted Robert Adam, who agreed to do some pro bono work to determine any possible historic value of the property. This will be done in the spring time. If the building does have historic value, the Heritage Commission will need to decide whether to keep it and maintain it with raised funds.

In response to a question from Conor Frain, Chairman Ludt explained that he looked at extending this trail out towards Little Baboosic, but the land is not great for a trail and quite swampy. The ACC is looking at trails nearby on the Gleason property.

3. Responsibilities for the Baboosic Lake Road Corn Crib and Cooperage

This was discussed within the previous agenda item.

4. 24 Brook Road Cottage Assessment

Chairman Ludt explained that the Planning Board currently has a proposed application for a development on this property. It is one of four major developments currently being proposed.

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The Heritage Commission sent comments to the Planning Board asking to view the existing cottage. The cottage looks to be from pre-WWII, possibly the 30's or 40's. The cottage is overgrown but otherwise not in terrible condition. The brook goes right by the structure and there appears to be a manmade pool there. The fireplace inside was probably the only source of heat. He asked that the group give an assessment of the property and do research as to its background, in order to send the comments back to the Planning Board. The property could be redeveloped by the developer, in exchange for some proposed additional bonus units. Chairman Ludt noted that he didn't see any antique or heritage redeeming qualities, with the possible exception of the fireplace.

Lisa Montesanto noted that the Jacobson property has heritage, in that it used to be the Hudson Stock Farm. She also noted that the existing building on site is not original; that building burned in 1899.

5. Potential Heritage Commission Meeting Start Time Changes for 2020

The group agreed on a suggested a possible revised meeting start time of 6:30pm. Chairman Ludt stated that he will email the other group members to seek their opinions.

6. December 2019 Meeting Agenda

Chairman Ludt explained that, for the past four years, the Heritage Commission has used their December meeting to hold a joint meeting with the Historic District Commission. The meeting has generally been not well attended.

Kristan Patenaude suggested meeting with other groups in town, such as the ACC, Garden Club, or Historic Society.

The group agreed to keep this year's December meeting to only the Heritage Commission.

7. Minutes: 10 October 2019

**Conor Frain moved to approve the meeting minutes from October 10, 2019, as submitted. Brenda Perry seconded.
All in favor.**

8. Closing Discussion/Roundtable/Past Month's Meeting Attendance Highlights

Chairman Ludt stated that the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area will be holding a talk on the 19th amendment in February.

Brenda Perry stated that the Milford Historic Society will be hosting the Hutchinson Family Singers on November 21st.

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Chairman Ludt stated that he attended the ACC meeting last night. The group was supposed to discuss the Prew development proposal, but this was postponed until new plans are received. He also attended a Board of Selectman meeting on the 12th, where it was discussed that the Planning Board will be working on the Master Plan update with NRPC. The Board also discussed that there will be an impact fee discussion had at their meeting on the 25th. He also attended a work session of the Planning Board on October 23rd, regarding the Master Plan update. The Planning Board will be looking for volunteers for some working groups in this process.

Chairman Ludt explained that he received a letter from the Division of Historical Resources regarding CLG grants. In the past, Community Development Director Gordon Leedy, was active in pursuing this grant for the town, but there may be no projects that suit this type of grant at this time.

Chairman Ludt explained that there were a number of duplicate historic documents found in the vault; five of these duplicates were transferred to the Library.

Chairman Ludt attended the Amherst Land Trust's annual meeting. They did not discuss any large upcoming projects.

Chairman Ludt recently met with Town Administrator Dean Shankle, and Community Development Director Nic Strong to discuss the metal detecting policy. This will continue to be worked through by them.

Lisa Montesanto noted that the Planning Board recently voted that there is potential regional impact to Mont Vernon from the proposed Prew development. This is the first time that regional impact has been voted on for quite some time. Mont Vernon was sent a certified letter to inform them.

Chairman Ludt stated that the Heritage Commission will be meeting in February or March to discuss the dedication of women's suffrage and ten local woman who made a difference in the movement. Brenda Perry agreed to coordinate with Will Ludt and the Historical Society on this project.

Lisa Montesanto stated that the Historical Society is also gearing up for their Christmas Market. It will be held on December 7th at the Wigwam from 12pm-7pm. This year the event is going to be bigger, including some possible outdoor vendors. The theme is a German/European style market.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude

Minutes approved as amended: December 12, 2019