

TOWN OF AMHERST
Heritage Commission

August 13, 2020

APPROVED

In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Lisa Montesanto, Brenda Perry, Tom Grella – BOS Ex-Officio, Conor Frain, Liz Larson, and John Bement.
Staff in attendance: Nic Strong – Community Development Director, Natasha Kypfer – Town Planner, and Kristan Patenaude – minute taker.
Also in attendance: Chris Buchanan – Historic District Commission Member, Amy Dixon and Nadine Miller – NH Division of Historical Resources

1. Roll Call to Order

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm., with the following statement. As Chair of the Amherst Heritage Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, as extended by Executive Orders 2020-05, 2020-08, 2020-09, and 2020-10, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.

However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.

All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #312-626-6799 and password 828 5671 1045, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/82856711045> that was included in the public notice of this meeting.

Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the website of the Planning Board at: www.amherstnh.gov.
Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access: If anybody has a problem, please call 603-341-5290.

Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote. Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to- Know law.

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Roll call attendance: Will Ludt, Brenda Perry (husband in room with her), Conor Frain, Tom Grella, Chris Buchanan, Liz Larson, John Bement, and Lisa Montesanto – all present.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

2. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage

Conor Frain stated that there was a recent NHPR program on woman’s suffrage, put on by Johns Hopkins and the Radcliffe Institute. The program talked about the struggles of women and how this struggle looked different in different parts of the country.

Will Ludt shared with the group a voters list from October 13, 1920, validated by the Supervisors of the Checklist. This list shows the women registered to vote at that time. At the time, there were 366 registered voters in Amherst. Today there are approximately 8,000. The total number of women registered to vote at the time was 131, or about 35% of the total number registered.

Brenda Perry noted that her maternal grandmother, Lizzie Richardson, is listed.

3. Introductions and Discussions with NHDHR – CLG Review

Amy Dixon and Nadine Miller introduced themselves. Nadine Miller explained that she would usually review the checklist with the group, but Amherst has already sent in its checklist. She suggested that the group could discuss issues in the community and about how the most recent grant products are working. She requested that any new member resumes be attached to the yearly report sent to NHDHR.

Will Ludt explained that the Commission recently worked on a stone wall identification project using LiDAR.

Chris Buchanan, of the Historic District Commission (HDC), explained that there are a few regulation items for the HDC that need updating. The first priority for the Commission was to create an inventory of the Historic District properties in town. It was useful to have an inventory created to know the specific architectural attributes of each property that are important to preserve. The CLG grant allowed for all of the Historic District properties in Town to be inventoried last summer. The HDC has used this inventory in almost every case since. It is a useful tool that will become a first step towards updating the HDC’s regulations.

Nadine Miller stated that NHDHR has been using that tool as a sample for other communities.

Will Ludt stated that the Master Plan process is beginning to take place. The process will be slightly different this year, as the Plan will be created in theme sections. He asked how best the Heritage Commission can insert its information into this type of Master Plan in order to make it easier to find the information necessary to receive future grants.

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Nadine Miller explained that the Historic Resources Chapter of the Master Plan follows an outline that is easily understood and coherent. It will outline the theme of historic preservation in the community. The other sections of the Plan may also disperse this theme. The goals for CLG grants are to look at a community's goals and see them outlined. Issues important to the community should be brought up within the Master Plan.

Nadine Miller suggested that the Town might look at a broader list of resource types, such as: stone walls, cellar holes, dams, and mill sites, as possible areas of archaeological significance. Another area that many towns address is burial grounds and cemeteries. Some towns wish to document the importance of these areas, and NHDHR has tools to help preserve these areas.

Tom Grella noted that there are five cemeteries in Amherst.

Nadine Miller explained that NHDHR also has a new survey form for the general public to use. Will Ludt agreed that he was interested in seeing the new form.

In response to a question from Nadine Miller, Will Ludt explained that the Heritage Commission would begin thinking about looking into possible grant opportunities. Nadine Miller explained that a lot of the grants for this year have been extended. She's unsure how next year's grants might be impacted.

Conor Frain explained that the Commission has pushed some projects off due to COVID-19. He would like the group to think outside the box in terms of needing some elements of help from the community.

In response to a question from Will Ludt regarding Senate Bill 707 and the Commission's support of it, Nadine Miller explained that supporting a legislative bill is a personal Town decision. She believes that legislators like to hear from Town bodies, if it suits them.

Nic Strong explained that subdivision and site plan applications always seek input from the Heritage Commission. If necessary, photos are taken of buildings to be demolished, and stone walls are preserved.

The group thanked Nadine Miller and Amy Dixon for their continued help.

The meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kristan Patenaude*

Minutes approved: September 10, 2020