

TOWN OF AMHERST  
Heritage Commission

December 10, 2020

**APPROVED**

In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Lisa Montesanto, Tom Grella – BOS Ex-Officio, John Bement, Brenda Perry, and Conor Frain.

Staff in attendance: Natasha Kypfer – Town Planner, and Kristan Patenaude – minute taker.

**1. Roll Call to Order**

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:32pm., 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 various Executive Orders, 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 0008 5340, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/82800085340> 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](http://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.

**Roll call attendance: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, John Bement, Tom Grella, Brenda Perry, and Lisa Montesanto – all present.**

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TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

**2. Cooperage at Corn Crib – Status Update – Robert Adam Preservation Services**

Will Ludt explained that the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC) recently cleared the Corn Crib Trail that runs from the Josiah Parker Trail to the Corn Crib. The ACC also extended the Josiah Parker Trail across Baboosic Lake Road to the B&M Rail Trail.

Will Ludt explained that Robert Adam recently completed a report on the Corn Crib and cooperage. He welcomed Robert Adam to share the report with the group.

In response to a question from Will Ludt, Robert Adam stated that the term “vernacular” refers to a structure that is grown organically from someone’s design in their mind that follows traditions. This type of structure could include a barn, residence, roadside attraction, etc.

Will Ludt explained that Doug Nelson, a nearby abutter, would like to undertake stabilizing the Corn Crib cooperage structure as an alternative to razing it. Some of the improvements will include a new roof and a new foundation in one corner. The ACC has agreed to donate a small amount of money to fund such a restoration, and a private donor has already come forward.

Robert Adam stated that, if the buildings can be saved, they should be. Farm buildings like this are quite rare in the area. He stated that, if the building goes another year without a covering on the back, it will continue to deteriorate. He suggested nailing or screwing 2x4’s to the roof with sheet metal.

Will Ludt stated that he is going to contact the nearest landowner to see if he is interested in helping chip in for the restoration.

Conor Frain suggested that the group think about how much money needs to be raised and what they want the building to be.

Brenda Perry suggested that the Commission think about other similar structures in Town that meet need to be identified.

Tom Grella stated that he will discuss the project with Town Administrator Shankle to make sure that the Town is aware.

Robert Adam suggested that there be accurate architectural drawings made of the building prior to reconstruction, so that a type of replacement in kind can be made.

**Conor Frain moved that the Heritage Commission take on the preservation and needed repairs of the Corn Crib cooperage as a project. Lisa Montesanto seconded. Roll call: Conor Frain – aye; Lisa Montesanto – aye; John Bement – aye; Brenda Perry – aye; Tom Grella – aye; and Will Ludt – aye. Motion carried unanimously.**

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Will Ludt thanked Robert Adam for his work and stated that the Commission will be making a small donation to the Shirley Meetinghouse Fund.

**3. CLG Grant Submittal – 19 January 2021**

Will Ludt stated that he has submitted a letter of intent to NH DHHR for funding to digitize and make accessible the Heritage Resource Survey with up-to-date technology, using QR code designs. The primary goal of the project is to get the historic heritage data out of the closet and into the hands of the public, bringing access of the information into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The grant is a 60/40 grant, meaning that the Town will need to come up with a 40% match, in the form of volunteer time and donations. The grant will not pay for any signage needed for the project, so the Commission will need to fundraise for that part of the project. The grant will, however, cover the signage design. The grant application is due January 19, 2021. There have been 10-15 historic sites in Town already identified as part of this project.

**4. Update on Potential Black History Event with NBAFS – January or February 2021**

Will Ludt explained that this walk has been pushed back to February 20, 2021. There is also an issue with security getting onto NBAFS. Thus, the walk will begin at NBAFS and continue out to the junction in Joe English, approximately 1.2 miles.

**5. Minutes: 12 November 2020**

The minutes will be reviewed at the Commission's next meeting.

**6. Chair Topics and Discussion/Roundtable**

Brenda Perry noted that there is an exploratory Zoom meeting on January 5, 2021 regarding the possible rail trail that could run from Nashua to Wilton.

**Tom Grella moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 PM. John Bement seconded.  
Roll call: Conor Frain – aye; Lisa Montesanto – aye; John Bement – aye; Brenda Perry – aye; Tom Grella – aye; and Will Ludt – aye. Motion carried unanimously.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristan Patenaude*

Minutes approved: January 14, 2021