

TOWN OF AMHERST
Heritage Commission

January 14, 2021

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 6:30pm., 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 885 5656 2229, or by clicking on the following website address:

<https://zoom.us/j/88556562229> 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.

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

January 14, 2021

APPROVED

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

2. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage

Will Ludt stated that there is a great educational video about the Corn Crib currently being circulated on the Amherst Facebook page.

Rob Clemens, Chair of the Amherst Conservation Commission (ACC), joined the Commission. He explained that the Planning Board’s ability to protect open space in Town is fairly limited. The ACC’s ability to purchase large parcels is also handicapped due to the current price of land (~\$10,000/acre). The ACC proposed a Warrant Article that will be on the ballot this year for open space acquisitions by the Town. The request is for bond authority of \$6M over the course of five years to conserve open space. This bond authority is being capped at \$2M/year in order to keep the tax impact low. This Warrant Article was presented to the Board of Selectmen and Ways & Means Committee last Monday at the public hearing.

Rob Clemens noted that there is some preliminary data from the Master Plan survey which shows that the Town’s highest priority seems to be to conserve water quality and open space in Town. The principal reason most people stated that they moved to Town is for the rural character, which also speaks to open space. These preliminary results align nicely with supporting the funding necessary to acquire open space in Town. The Board of Selectmen supported this Warrant Article 5-0. He noted that the Corn Crib is a great example of the character and rural feel that make Amherst special and that is worth preserving. He asked that the Commission try to promote the Warrant Article through word of mouth.

In response to a question from Lisa Montesanto, Rob Clemens explained that the impact to an average home in Amherst, if the maximum amount were sought in a given year, would be approximately \$30/year.

In response to a question from Conor Frain, Rob Clemens explained that these purchases will mainly be through fee simple acquisitions. The proposal is for Town owned parcels that will have full public access. The ACC also has access to its Conservation Fund as a way to supplement these purchases.

Rob Clemens noted that approximately 70% of the Town that is considered undeveloped is actually under private ownership. This type of Warrant Article is important if the Town wants to be a player to purchase these properties if/when they go up for sale.

In response to a question from Lisa Montesanto, it was discussed that the Warrant Article, if approved, should take effect on July 1, 2021.

3. Cooperage at Corn Crib – Status Update

Will Ludt explained that the Heritage Commission voted unanimously in December to take on the project of raising funds in order to restore the Corn Crib Cooperage. Doug Nelson, a nearby abutter, is willing to help with this project. A donation of \$500 has already been received. He

January 14, 2021

APPROVED

would like for a small subcommittee to be formed to keep an eye on this project. He envisions this will probably be a two-year project.

4. CLG Grant Submittal – 19 January 2021 Delayed to 18 February 2021

Will Ludt explained that he and Conor Frain met with NRPC regarding this grant. The State has pushed back the application deadline to February 18, 2021. The intention is for the Commission to apply for this grant as a way to revitalize the Historic Resource Survey by digitizing it and creating a story map.

5. Black History Event with NBAFS – February 2021 Update

Will Ludt explained that this walk will include a limited number of people, up to 15. These people will need to go to the New Boston Air Force Station. There will be a walk on the base to the Melendy foundation. The group will then hear of the importance of the Melendys.

The group discussed holding this walk on either February 20th or February 27th.

Will Ludt mentioned that the Master Plan survey will close next week. Natasha Kypfer explained that there have been just under 1,700 responses so far.

Tom Grella noted that the Town's Deliberative Session will be held on February 3, 2021, at Souhegan High School.

6. Minutes: 12 November 2020, and 10 December 2020

Conor Frain moved to approve the meeting minutes of November 12, 2020. Brenda Perry seconded.

Roll call: Will Ludt – aye; Lisa Montesanto – aye; Conor Frain – aye; John Bement – aye; Brenda Perry – aye; and Tom Grella – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Will Ludt requested that the study done by Robert Adams on the Cooperage be attached to the minutes of December 10, 2020.

Tom Grella moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2020. Lisa Montesanto seconded.

Roll call: Will Ludt – aye; Lisa Montesanto – aye; Conor Frain – aye; John Bement – aye; Brenda Perry – aye; and Tom Grella – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Chair Topics and Discussion/Roundtable

In response to a question from Brenda Perry, Kristan Patenaude stated that she would check into updates on the Village lighting proposal suggested last year.

Brenda Perry moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 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.

TOWN OF AMHERST
Heritage Commission

January 14, 2021

APPROVED

133

134 *Respectfully submitted,*

135 *Kristan Patenaude*

136

137 Minutes approved: February 11, 2021

138