

TOWN OF AMHERST  
Heritage Commission

March 11, 2021

**APPROVED**

1 In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Lisa Montesanto, Brenda Perry [6:43pm], John Bement  
2 [6:43pm], Tom Grella, and Conor Frain.  
3 Staff in attendance: Natasha Kypfer – Town Planner, and Kristan Patenaude – Recording  
4 Secretary.  
5

6 **1. Roll Call to Order**

7 Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:31pm., with the following statement. As Chair of  
8 the Amherst Heritage Commission, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the  
9 Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's  
10 Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, as extended by various  
11 Executive Orders, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.  
12

13 Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this  
14 meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order.  
15 However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:  
16 Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by  
17 video or other electronic means:  
18

19 We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting.

20 All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this  
21 meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if  
22 necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #312-626-6799  
23 and password 842 2461 9361, or by clicking on the following website address:  
24 <https://zoom.us/j/84224619361> that was included in the public notice of this meeting.  
25 Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:  
26

27 We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the  
28 meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom or telephonically. Instructions  
29 have also been provided on the website of the Planning Board at: [www.amherstnh.gov](http://www.amherstnh.gov).  
30 Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are  
31 problems with access: If anybody has a problem, please call 603-341-5290.  
32

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

34 In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and  
35 rescheduled.  
36

37 Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.  
38 Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their  
39 presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this  
40 meeting, which is required under the Right-to- Know law.  
41

42 **Roll call attendance: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, Tom Grella, and Lisa Montesanto – all**  
43 **present.**  
44

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TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

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

None to report this time.

**3. Review of Barn Easement Process- for BOS Consideration**

Will Ludt explained that the Heritage Commission was started in 2002 and accepted its first application for a barn easement in 2003. This was for a barn on Thornton Ferry II Road. There is a State RSA for a preservation tax assessment allowing for easements for barn preservation. No one has applied for a barn easement since 2003. Recently, the ACC received a request for a land easement that is similar to the process for a barn easement. He would like to know how to make an internal policy for barn easements.

Will Ludt explained that the NH Preservation Alliance has a lot of information regarding the NH Barn Tax Incentive. He shared the information document and application with the group. The Incentive lasts for a minimum of 10 years. The application is submitted to the Town’s Tax Assessor’s Office, which then goes to the Heritage Commission for evaluation. There has to be a public benefit shown as part of the application. He also shared a weighted scale for easement qualifications with the group. He suggested that the Heritage Commission could work with the Tax Assessor’s Office on this project. The Commission could do the evaluation and then pass the information along to the Tax Assessor’s Office.

*Brenda Perry and John Bement joined the meeting.*

Natasha Kypfer reviewed RSA 79-D for Discretionary Easements with the group. This is what the Town/ACC is considering pursuing. The process is similar to the Barn Easement process. She explained that she would check with Community Development Director, Nic Strong, regarding the possibility of making this an internal policy.

**4. Cooperage Task Force (CTF) Update**

Will Ludt explained that he, Lisa Montesanto, Brenda Perry, and Conor Frain met on March 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss the workflow for the Cooperage project. DPW Director Eric Hahn has stated that he will take care of the tree near the Cooperage in the spring. He asked the group to all go view the tree and see how it looks to them at some point. Conor Frain is working on an article on this project to post on Facebook. He noted that there may be an issue with parking near the Cooperage, but that there could be a nice area near the road created with some grading. The Task Force’s next meeting will be on April 1, 2021.

Brenda Perry noted that Conor Frain created a picture that shows what the area for the parking lot would look like without foliage. Will Ludt stated that the parking area would be small, for possibly 2-3 cars. Brenda Perry noted that she spoke with Doug Nelson who is dealing with some health problems right now but hoping to be well enough to take on the project by the spring.

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**5. Feedback: Black History Month Event With NBAFS- 20 February 2021**

Will Ludt stated that a few members of the Commission and Town Staff attended this walk. Conor Frain stated that there was a good turnout of about 22 people. Brenda Perry noted that the presenters were very knowledgeable.

**6. FWHHA "Hidden Treasures- 2021" Participation**

Will Ludt stated that the Hidden Treasures month is in May. He suggested the group do a walk along the B&M Trail, across Baboosic Lake Road, onto the Corn Crib Trail, to participate. Conor Frain suggested Patch Hill as an option. Brenda Perry suggested a walk at Peabody Mill Environmental Center as an option.

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

Lisa Montesanto stated that the Historical Society is discussing opening the museums on May 8, 2021, to the public. She noted that the Historical Society would like to include an article on the Cooperage in its monthly newsletter. The deadline for the newsletter submission is March 20, 2021.

Will Ludt noted that the Commission needs Alternate members.

Will Ludt explained that the Commission usually takes a field trip in June. He is considering an event to see Camp Young Judaea, which celebrated its 80th anniversary last year.

**7. Minutes: 11 February 2021**

**Brenda Perry moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 11, 2021, as submitted, and to also adjourn the meeting at 7:31pm. Lisa Montesanto seconded. Roll call: Brenda Perry – aye; Tom Grella – abstain; Lisa Montesanto – aye; John Bement – aye; and Conor Frain – aye; 4-0-1, motion carried.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kristan Patenaude*

Minutes approved: April 8, 2021