

October 14, 2021

**APPROVED**

In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Conor Frain – Vice Chair, Brenda Perry, Lisa Montesanto (remote), Gordon Zuerndorfer, Laura Zuerndorfer (alternate), John Bement (remote), and Tom Grella – Board of Selectmen Ex-Officio.

Staff in attendance: Kristan Patenaude – Recording Secretary (remote).

Also in attendance: Sara Siskavich, NRPC; and Andrew Smeltz, NRPC (remote).

**1. Roll Call to Order**

Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:**

**2. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage – none at this time.**

**3. Grant CLG Kick-off Meeting – GIS Mapping & Website Design**

Will Ludt explained that the Heritage Commission has received three CLG grants over the past 15 years. The first (2009-2010) was for a town wide Historic Resource Survey. The second (2014-2015) was for a data collection on four Amherst farmsteads. The current CLG grant (2020-2022) is for a project called “From the Bookshelves to the Public.” The goals of this project are to consolidate Amherst historic resources under a single platform, using GIS mapping as a backbone and to create a new website for the Commission. The focus will be on resources located outside of the Historic District.

Sara Siskavich explained that the Town already has many resources documented and that NRPC holds many useful files for this project. The goal is to make this data geospatial and more accessible to the public. She explained that Simon Corson, previous Town Planner, started this project many years ago. NRPC will take the beginnings of his project and vet all of the data so that the inventory is as comprehensive as it can be. There are old maps and data that can be included into GIS so that comparisons can be drawn. NRPC will then work to centralize all of this data and put it into an accessible format.

Sara Siskavich stated that the next step will be creating any number of apps that will allow the data to be put into the right tool for the right audience. She gave some examples of possible apps, including:

- 1) Shortlist (aka, “pins on a map”) – this app would contain a curated list of attributes and photos of key locations around Town. This would be for the general public, casual, and non-technical users. It could be accessed via desktop or mobile browsers.
- 2) Map Layer Viewer (“GIS on the web”) – this app would be a comprehensive resource inventory with attached, related files. This would be used by motivated users and researchers as a data exploration tool to be used at a desktop.
- 3) Find Nearby – this app would include a non-sensitive subset of cultural and historical inventory in a street-based map. This would encourage visitors to the area, by helping them navigate and find locations. This would be a mobile app.

Andrew Smeltz showed the group examples of each type of app.

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Sara Siskavich explained that the Shortlist app would not contain every item and location. It would be used to garner interest in Amherst. The group could easily embed it on the new website.

Conor Frain suggested picking 1-2 historical hikes in Town with sites located along them to highlight in the app.

In response to a question from Will Ludt, Sara Siskavich stated that videos made by the Town could be wrapped into the Map Viewer App data.

Will Ludt noted that Taylor Hardner created the new ACC website and has agreed to create a new website for the Heritage Commission. The process for this would be: 1) content creation by the Heritage Commission; 2) website design by Ms. Hardner; 3) feedback and modifications, as needed. He noted that it took Ms. Hardner approximately 5-6 months to create the ACC website. He asked for help with step 1 of the process, to create content for the new site.

Will Ludt stated that, for the CLG Grant, it will be important for the Commission and Town to document any "work in kind" completed. The total grant match that the Town must document is \$4,012. He asked that Commissioners and staff document any hours spent on work for the grant, including these meetings. He shared a form with the group and noted that the rate of \$28.84/hour should be used.

Sara Siskavich asked for any related pictures that the group may have. She also stated that a brainstorming session should be held in the future.

Brenda Perry noted that indigenous sites can be identified by pictures, but should not be identified by location, as there have been issues with people taking items from these sites.

## **5. Cooperage Update**

The group discussed meeting at the Corn Crib to complete a clean-up of the site, and then walking the Corn Crib Trail to clean it up as well. Gordon Zuerndorfer will set up this event.

## **6. NHDHR 5 Year Preservation Plan 2021-2025**

Will Ludt noted that NHDHR recently published its 5 Year Preservation Plan.

He also noted that there will be a Master Plan public forum on November 15, 2021, at 6:30pm at the Amherst Middle School. He encouraged everyone to attend and participate.

## **6. Minutes: 12 August 2021**

**Conor Frain moved to approve the meeting minutes of August 12, 2021. Gordon Zuerndorfer seconded.**

TOWN OF AMHERST  
Heritage Commission

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87           **Roll call: Will Ludt – aye, Conor Frain – aye, Brenda Perry – aye, Lisa Montesanto**  
88           **(remote) - aye, Gordon Zuerndorfer - aye, John Bement (remote) – aye, and Tom**  
89           **Grella – aye; motion carried unanimously.**

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91           **The meeting was adjourned at 7:46pm.**

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95           *Respectfully submitted,*  
96           *Kristan Patenaude*

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98           Minutes approved: November 16, 2021