



Town of Amherst, NH

HERITAGE COMMISSION MINUTES

Barbara Landry Meeting Room

2 Main Street

Thursday, October 9, 2014 at 7:30 PM

I. Call to Order: Acting Chairman Andy Ouellette called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Attendees: Andy Ouellette, Carolyn Quinn, Mary Mahar, Bill Veillette, and Selectman Tom Grella. Also present: Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes. Absent: Will Ludt, Larry McCoy, and Eric Hahn. No members of the public were in attendance.

II. Topics of Discussion

a. Update on NHDHR Grant

Andy Ouellette provided an update on the farmstead survey grant. Katy Holmes of Newton, MA was the sole bid received from the RFP. Ms. Holmes submitted a very thorough proposal. Will Ludt took her to see the four farms to be surveyed which are the Parker, Lynch, Converse, and Stone farms. Though Katy Holmes is employed full time in Newton, she expects no difficulty in taking time to complete the project within its one year timeframe. Chairman Ludt felt that other bidders were simply too busy to respond. Chairman Ludt will brief the Board of Selectmen in October who will formally accept the award. The acceptance and name of the selected consultant, Katy Holmes, will then be forwarded to the Department of Historic Preservation and have to be approved by the Executive Council which could take up to a month.

b. Status Update: Amherst Village Strategic Plan

Bill Veillette attended the first meeting of the Village Strategic Planning Committee which was held October 8th. The Steering Committee is made up of 24 people – department heads, representatives from other Boards, and citizens. One half of the committee lives in the village.

The Steering Committee will be voting and making decisions on the process. The Outreach Group is charged with developing ways of soliciting input through internet polling and house meetings. The Nashua Regional Planning Commission will consolidate information gathered and report back to the Steering Committee who will then make recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. Residents will be asked what they like best about the village, specific safety concerns, should utilities be buried, and the like. The implementation will be left to the Department of Public Works.

Mr. Veillette stated that he would attend every meeting because he feels it is important to preserve the character of the village, and there could be serious costs and consequences if appropriate people do not weigh in when surveys go out. It is important that the Heritage Commission channel things toward a recommendation of preserving the character, as is, of the village.

There was discussion on the value of the undertaking. Commission member Quinn indicated that she hoped things didn't change too drastically given what the village means to the town. The need for stop signs and speeding traffic was mentioned. Selectmen Grella indicated that traffic should slow some once the bridge re-opens. He expects all signage and structures redirecting traffic will come down within the next four weeks.

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53 **c. Stonewall Update**
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55 The project subcommittee made up of Mary Mahar, Andy Ouellette and Larry McCoy have not
56 met. Andy Ouellette is still looking for a set of maps for the whole town. Bill Veillette stated
57 that the state archive maps may not be complete, and suggested getting in touch with Susan
58 Fisher. Nancy Demers, Town Clerk, has all the town historic records. Andy Ouellette wants to
59 produce a videotape of all scenic roads in town and will do so after the leaves are gone so that
60 the stone walls can be seen.
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62 **d. Updates from other Boards and Commissions Attendance**
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64 Mary Mahar reported having attended the most recent Zoning Board of Adjustments meeting
65 which led to remembering the Baboosic Lake area as a vibrant community. It served as a
66 tourist attraction and brought many to the area via railroad. Commission members indicated
67 that a historic project on how the land was bought and subdivided may be of interest in the
68 future.
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70 **III. Approval of Minutes: September 11, 2014.**
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72 Selectman Grella moved to accept with amendment the September 11, 2014 meeting minutes.
73 Seconded by Mary Mahar. Vote: 4-0-1 (Bill Veillette abstained).
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75 **IV. Commission Roundtable**
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77 No additional discussion took place.
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79 **V. Adjourn**
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81 Mary Mahar moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 5-0.