

**Town of Amherst  
Historic District Commission  
January 16, 2014, Meeting Minutes**

The Historic District Commission met in the Barbara Landry Meeting Room of the Amherst Town Hall at approximately 7:00 p.m. Members present: Chairman Jamie Ramsay, Planning Board Representative Sally Wilkins, Member Doug Chabinsky, Member Bruce Fraser, Alternate Larry McCoy, and Alternate Jeanne Rosenblatt.

Members absent: Vice Chair Tracy Veillette, Secretary Susan Clark, Selectmen's Representative Tom Grella, Alternate Chris Hall, Alternate Katy Kennedy, and Alternate Helen Rowe.

Alternate Jeanne Rosenblatt voted for Member Tracy Veillette and Alternate Larry McCoy voted for Member Susan Clark.

**New Business**

**1. Case #4721 – Jason & Gina Aselin – 31 Middle Street, PIN# 016-010-000 -- Generator.**

Jason and Gina Aselin said they wanted to put the generator in the back of the house, but the generator needs to be so many feet from the house, and the sewer line is in the back. The only place they could put it according to code is on the right-hand side or the front of the house. The generator has already been placed on the side of the house, but it is not yet hooked-up. They intend to put plantings in front of the generator for screening purposes. There is a forsythia bush on the corner of the house, which currently has no leaves because of the season.

Member Doug Chabinski asked if there are propane tanks on the property now.

There are no tanks on the property, but they are planning on putting them in the back of the house which won't be visible from any of their neighbors. They will need to run the piping from the back to the generator, and have been told that some of the piping will have access in the basement. The trench has been dug and waiting for inspection.

Chairman Ramsay felt that there needs to be evergreens of some sort to screen the generator. The forsythia looks nice in the spring and summer, but won't do the job year-round. An additional forsythia bush won't solve the problem. Mature and thick holly bushes, boxwoods, or evergreens will work.

The fact that the generator is the same color as the house is good.

**Findings:**

1. It is a non-contributing property.
2. This is a highly visible property.
3. No visibility of the generator is always preferred, but this is not possible at this location.

*Upon a motion duly made/seconded (DC/SW), the HDC unanimously approved the application as presented, noting that mature evergreen screening be put in place, and the tanks will be placed in the back yard so as not to be seen.*

**Old Business**

Upon a motion duly made/seconded (SW/DC), the HDC unanimously approved the minutes of November 21, 2013, as presented.

**Other Business**

Chairman Ramsay asked the Commission to enter into a discussion regarding composite board and fiberglass doors.

On a recent job site, he used a composite material on top of a water table board at the top of the foundation. The composite material was perfect for that location.

On another job, he used a fiberglass exterior door, which got stained. The door was beautiful, and one could not tell the difference between it and a wooden door, unless they knocked on the door. Fiberglass doors won't warp. They are less expensive, and they provide better insulation.

He would not like to see the HDC guidelines changed to allow these items, but if an applicant requests either of these two items, he would like the Commission to consider allowing them on a case-by-case basis.

Alternate Larry McCoy said the Heritage Commission is looking into the lighting of the Town Hall, as the florescent lights are not in keeping with the historical building. They would like to see lights in the Town Hall that provide enough illumination for the public as well as the broadcasting of meetings.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business to come before the HDC, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Crook  
Community Development Secretary

Minutes approved as presented on February 20, 2014.