

**Town of Amherst**  
**Historic District Commission Work Session**  
**Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018**  
**7:00pm**

**Attendance:** J. Ramsey-Chair, D. Chabinsky, Tom Grella- BOS Representative

**Staff:** S. Corson Planner

**New Business:**

Jamie called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Jamie asked for public comment.

Adrian Menig and David Salvas addressed the Commission about recent changes made at 148 Amherst Street (17-103). The property informally called *Walt's* has a new owner and is now selling gas. Adrian and David both discuss the signage that has been installed and asked the group what is being done to address signage without a permit, and signage that does not conform to Town Regulations. Simon Corson responded that Community Development is looking into this matter and will have a conversation with the new owner to make them aware of Amherst rules.

Simon announced that the Community Development Office would print packets containing upcoming HDC cases by request only following the May 17<sup>th</sup> meeting in an effort to use less paper. Packet will be sent via email.

Simon opened a discussion about reviewing and revising the Historic District Commission Regulations. The Planner shared his first pass at revising the Regulations as well as the Director of Community Development, Gordon Leedy's draft revisions. Simon's emphasized using the edits from the Community Development Office as a starting point to think critically about what the HDC Regulations should say.

Doug and Jamie concurred that the minimum maintenance portion of the Regulations should be included in the revised regulations. Doug asked for the fences section of the Regulations to be more focused. Doug went on to talk about addressing windows and doors in a way that understands the benefits modern materials, and retains the character and integrity of historic structures. Doug continued to discuss modern equipment, giving special attention to solar energy. Several Commissioners agreed that they need to develop standards around modern equipment. Doug commented that the Commission should strive to better define what the HDC is trying to protect and retain in the District. Simon added that he sees revising the Regulations as an opportunity to define language in a way that is synonymous with Building and Zoning Code as well as explain the preservationist language used within the Regulations.

There was discussion about including more information about federal incentive programs related to historic preservation and rehabilitation. Selectman Tom Grella spoke in support of encouraging residents to take advantage of these programs.

There was conversation about the availability of wood products as compared with composites, vinyl, fiberglass, and aluminum clad products. The group agreed that continuing to educate the Commission about modern materials is critical. Simon mentioned Nantucket, Massachusetts has added an addendum to their Historic District Regulations called "Sustainable Preservation", which would be informative to read. The Commission is tasked with reviewing their Regulations for further conversations when the full board is present.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Simon Corson