

**Town of Amherst  
Historic District Commission Work Session  
Thursday, September 8<sup>rd</sup>, 2017  
7:00pm**

**Attendance:** J. Ramsey-Chair, C. Hall, C. Buchanan, D. Chabinsky

**Staff:** S. Corson Planner

**New Business:**

Jamie called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

**Discussion of Introduction and Guidelines Document**

Jamie discussed a full agenda next Amherst Historic District Commission (HDC) meeting taking place on Thursday, September 21. The Chair highlighted the importance of viewing and studying the seven cases on the agenda prior to the meeting. Jamie briefly talked about the properties on the agenda to explain the logistics of seven site walks.

Simon provided the Commission with an overview of why the Introduction and Guidelines Document has been pursued. The Planner shared that many Historic District Commissions in New Hampshire have a *guidelines* document that compliments the city or town's regulations. Chris Hall interjected that the Introduction and Guidelines Document provides residents with information about history of the district, and justifies why the HDC regulates. Simon continued that there has been several drafts, with edits from the HDC, Community Development Department, and the Heritage Commission. There was discussion about how to edit the document so it's an interesting and compelling read that help citizens understand why the Commission regulates, and so it's clearly understood how the Commission makes decisions during public hearings. Several members of the Commission commented. Chris Buchanan supported the idea that the document should accomplish both endearing citizens to the heritage of their community while also providing concise explanation of HDC proceedings. There was agreement that another draft should be adapted by Simon and that version should go before the Commission for vote on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Determining the Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Resurfacing Historic Wood Frame Buildings**

There was thorough discussion about various scenarios in the District involving the use of materials that differ from a structure's original construction. The Commission generated many questions to ask preservation experts about when and where it is appropriate to allow substitute materials in Amherst's Historic District. Simon shared a Preservation Brief with the Commission entitled, *Aluminum and Vinyl Siding on Historic Buildings: The Appropriateness of Substitute Materials for Resurfacing Historic Wood Frame Buildings*. There was further discussion about how to understand and apply relevant guidance from the Federal and State government when considering waiving HDC regulation. The Commission shared their excitement to have insightful dialogue with preservation experts that have studied Amherst's District.

**Preparation for NAPC's CAMP**

The Commission Assistance and Mentoring Program (CAMP) is a customized training offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) and presented by highly qualified preservation professionals in support of local commissions. The HDC will be having a full-day workshop with preservation experts from this program in late October/ early November. Doug shared that Fridays work best for him. October 27<sup>th</sup> and November 3<sup>rd</sup> were brought up as options for the workshop. Simon shared that the Community Development Department is coordinating the event with NAPC and will choose a date for the event promptly. Everyone shared their interest in being present for the workshop.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Simon Corson