



Town of Amherst, NH

Heritage Commission

Final Minutes

Barbara Landry Conference Room

Thursday, April 11, 2019

1 Regular Members in attendance were: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, Mary Mahar, Lisa
2 Montesanto, John Bement, and Tom Grella- BOS Ex Officio.
3 Also in attendance: Planner, Simon Corson, and Recorder, Kristan Patenaude
4

5 **I. Call to Order**

6 Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order sharply at 7:28 PM.
7

8 **II. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage**

9 The Commission welcomed Chris Marshall, member of the Amherst Historical Society and
10 avid stone waller, to the meeting. Chairman Ludt explained that Mr. Marshall pointed out
11 to him the B&M rail bed layout on a 1906 topographical map of the town. The railroad
12 didn't go straight into Ponemah Station at that time, as Chairman Ludt originally thought,
13 but instead met in east Milford, behind where Shaws is now.
14

15 **III. Topics of Discussion**

16 **1. Field Site Visit by James Gage, Patch Hill Quarry – 8 June 2019/15 June 2019**

17 Chairman Ludt stated that the Commission's field trip to the Patch Hill Quarry will take
18 place on June 8th (rain date of June 15th) from 10:30am-12pm. The group will meet at the
19 Patch Hill kiosk and hike up to see the 3 Amherst quarried. He hopes the group will learn
20 enough to eventually take the public on some guided tours of the area.
21

22 **2. Review of Amherst Stone Wall LiDAR Progress – Review Map – Next Steps**

23 Chairman Ludt asked the group for their opinions on the LiDAR mapping project.
24

25 Mr. Marshall explained that LiDAR worked as a clue for finding the stone walls, but it
26 wasn't the answer. There are many clues to use including plot plans, photographs of the
27 area, Google Earth images, and walking around the areas. He stated that most stone walls
28 don't end in strange places. They usually intersect with others, end at a road, or at a swamp.
29 He wished that the project had set some quality standards, because some walls were
30 incorrectly marked and some did not include gaps along the road for driveways.
31

32 Chairman Ludt stated that he would now plan to invite the public to a meeting to discuss
33 the stone wall project and see what they thought of it.

34 **3. Milestone Schedule/Assignments for 2019 Projects**

35 Chairman Ludt stated that the Brick School window is in, but only temporarily as more
36 work is needed.

37 There will be a meeting in early May regarding the town lighting/lantern project. Mr.
38 Bement stated that there seems to be a consensus from the people who live in the Village
39 that they've spoken to that they don't want any new lights, and don't want lights just for
40 the sake of having lights. They would be happy to see some of the ugly lights replaced and
41 are interested in seeing the demo light.

42
43 **4. Round Table Discussion**

44 Ms. Patenaude stated that Town-wide Cleanup Day will be held on May 4th from 8am-
45 12pm. She also explained that she saw a flyer in Hollis regarding the Hollis Heritage
46 Commission's 2020 calendar, and wondered if the Amherst Commission might attempt
47 something similar. The group all agreed that the idea is a good one, if they have a project
48 that needs funding in the future.

49
50 Mr. Corson stated that the Heritage resource map is ready to be publicized and he's hoping
51 that the Commission will help in doing so. Mr. Frain stated that it might be good to
52 publicize it while also meeting with the public to discuss the stone wall project. Town
53 Administrator Shankle suggested that the group have a soft opening for the resource map
54 and then, once comfortable with it, make a large deal about it for the public.

55
56 Chairman Ludt stated that Peter Lyon is the new Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.
57 Dwight Brew is the new Vice Chairman.

58
59 Chairman Ludt expressed his delight over the Congregational Church talk that recently
60 occurred. Mr. Bement stated that he's hoping the Heritage Commission will look into
61 hosting a panel for people willing to talk about growing up in Amherst or the "unofficial
62 history" of the town.

63
64 Chairman Ludt stated that there will be a reroute happening on the Highland Trail and that
65 there are a couple of large rock piles along it that the Commission might be interested in.

66
67 **5. Minutes: 14 February 2019**

68 *A MOTION was made by Mr. Frain and SECONDED by Mr. Bement to accept the meeting*
69 *minutes from March 14, 2019 as written.*

70 *Voting: 4-0-1; motion carried (M.M. abstained)*

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72
73 *The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.*

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78 *Respectfully submitted,*
79 *Kristan Patenaude*