



Town of Amherst, NH

Heritage Commission

Approved Minutes, as of 9/12/19

Patch Hill Trailhead Kiosk

Saturday, June 08, 2019

1 Regular Members in attendance were: Will Ludt, Conor Frain, Lisa Montesanto, and
2 John Bement.

3 Also in attendance: Recorder, Kristan Patenaude; Dean Shankle; Rob Clemens; Mike
4 Cohen; Vic Benison and wife, Chris Marshall; Joe Cummings

5 Guest Lecturers: James and Mary Gage- StoneStructures.org
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7 **I. Call to Order**

8 Chairman Will Ludt called the meeting to order sharply at 10:30 PM.
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10 **Topics of Discussion – On-site Visit and Discussions of Amherst Quarries**

11 The meeting started with introductions of people in attendance and with our guest lectures,
12 James and Mary Gage of StoneStructures.org. Chairman Ludt stated that the purpose of
13 the tour was twofold: the Patch Hill Quarry tour was to learn and be educated on
14 information about a unique “Hidden Treasure” of Amherst- its quarrying industry of the
15 late 19th and early 20th century; and to initiate the Heritage Commission’s entrance into
16 the “Amherst Beyond the Commons” video. The recorded footage of the video was done
17 by Kristan Patenaude and Joe Cummings.
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19 After introductions, the tour was handed off to James and Mary Gage. Prior to heading up
20 the trail to the first quarry site, the Gages gave a short demonstration of some of the tools
21 and techniques used in quarrying granite. After the demonstrations, the Gages guided the
22 group to three quarry sites and pointed out the unique features of all. The first site was
23 where the quarry shed originally was, with its remaining foundations and tool setup areas
24 still able to be seen. Guide wires can still be found with appropriate anchoring stays.
25 Quarry#2 was a much smaller quarry pit. The pit is currently filled with water. Quarry#3
26 was the most interesting. It was marked by a sign from the Amherst Conservation
27 Commission. At this location, you could see evidence of a crane, with guide wires, and the
28 remains of a piston driven compressor from Ingersoll-Sergeant Drill Company of New
29 York. Many discarded granite slabs were noted and this pit was also filled with water.
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31 The tour concluded with a roundtable of final questions for the Gages. A round of thanks
32 was given for their efforts and for the much appreciated information of the Patch Hill
33 Quarries. On the way to the parking kiosk, there were some possible ideas discussed for

34 the next Heritage Commission Off-Site for June 2020. They were: Visit to Eagle Rock,
35 Treasures around Baboosic Lake, Revisit New Boston AFS Melendy Farm site and Joe
36 English Peabody Mill and SluiceWay.

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39 *The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.*

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44 *Respectfully submitted,*

45 *Kristan Patenaude*