

September 12, 2019

APPROVED

1 In attendance: Will Ludt – Chair, Conor Frain – Vice Chair, Lisa Montesanto, John Bement, Tom
2 Grella – BOS Ex-Officio, Mary Mahar, and Brenda Perry (alternate).
3 Staff in attendance: Simon Corson – Planner, Kristan Patenaude – Minute Taker, Nic Strong –
4 Community Development Director, and Dean Shankle – Town Administrator.

5
6 Will Ludt called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

7
8 TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

9
10 **1. “Throw Back” Thursday – Amherst Heritage**

11
12 Simon Corson, Planner, shared an old photo of the Cricket Corner school house that he received.
13 Chairman Ludt stated that he will take a picture of it to add into the Commission’s inventory.

14
15 **2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Discussion – CIP Plan for 2021-2016**

16
17 Chairman Ludt stated that the Heritage Commission has given CIP inputs on and off for the last
18 twelve years. From their initial suggestion in 2003, the windows in Town Hall were finally
19 restored in 2019.

20
21 *Nic Strong, Community Development Director entered the meeting.*

22
23 Will Ludt introduced Nic Strong to the Heritage Commission.

24
25 Chairman Ludt stated that in FY20 the Commission’s CIP input was regarding stone wall
26 maintenance and repair, and educational initiatives involving that project. It was intended that
27 maintenance to stone walls along scenic roads would be completed with help from the DPW and
28 volunteers. The estimated amount for this project was \$15,000.

29
30 In response to a question from Brenda Perry, Town Administrator Shankle explained that the
31 catch basin across the street from Town Hall was recently repaired, and the lanterns for the
32 lighting project have been ordered. The DPW is currently working to find the electricity source
33 for that area and will then be ready to move forward with the project. This is only a pilot
34 program for the lanterns. If the public likes the project, it can maybe be expanded with help from
35 the Heritage Commission.

36
37 Conor Frain suggested a CIP project, jointly with the ACC, to update some of the trailheads in
38 town to include some historical/heritage aspects. He also suggested, as a continuance from the
39 vault project, that there be a display case in a public place (either at Town Hall or in the library)
40 to present some of the items found to the public. He finally suggested a project having to do with
41 tree trimming over scenic heritage areas in town, which could be combined with the creation of
42 the corn crib trail.

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44 In response to a question from Lisa Montesanto, Will Ludt explained that the Brick School foyer
45 window has been completed. The remainder of any work there has been left in the hands of the
46 Superintendent.

47
48 Conor Frain also suggested updating the war monument near the Green that currently only dates
49 through 1985. Will Ludt remarked that this would be a good joint project with the Historical
50 Society.

51

52 **3. Josiah Parker Trail Spur to Corn Crib Support – 14 September 2019**

53

54 Will Ludt explained that the Commission has been working with the Conservation Commission
55 (ACC) to create a trail spur off the Josiah Parker Trail. This would lead to more visibility for the
56 corn crib, as it currently doesn't have good access to it and is not well-defined. He walked this
57 possible trail with Rob Clemens, ACC Chair, in May. It is a nice, flat walk. The layout of the
58 trail was supposed to occur on Saturday the 14th, but will be postponed until October.

59

60 **4. Stonewall LiDAR Identification Progress**

61

62 Will Ludt stated that, since the last briefing, a lot of stonewalls have been identified around
63 Amherst, and there has been a lot of work at the state level in the western part of the state.

64

65 **5. "Beyond the Common" Video Support**

66 Joe Cummings explained to the Commission that he is working on a local television show,
67 "Amherst Beyond the Common, with Kristan Patenaude." Footage from the Commission's Patch
68 Hill hike has been edited and now it is hoped that additional outings will be completed that can
69 be filmed. The ACC and Heritage Commission creation of the Corn Crib trail spur will be
70 videoed in October. He explained that the idea for this video series began with his original
71 twenty minute video about the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Wall visit to Amherst about a year
72 ago.

73

74 Will Ludt detailed a number of items that might be appropriate to video tape: the Corn Crib
75 project, the Peabody Mill Environmental Center sluiceway, the New Boston Air Force
76 Station/Luther Melendy Homestead Foundation, a view from the top of the Congregational
77 Church "beyond the common."

78

79 Tom Grella suggested possibly videoing the Heritage Commission visiting Eagle Rock this fall.
80 Conor Frain suggested a video of the town's perambulation, if/when it occurs.

81

82 Joe Cummings requested that any photos taken during the Patch Hill hike be sent to him, to
83 insert into the video.

84

85 Conor Frain suggested that the Commission tie this video project into their mapping project.
86 Simon Corson agreed that the videos made could also be linked to the Heritage resource map.

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88 **6. Closing Discussion/Roundtable**

89 Conor Frain stated that he recently read a book that included postcards from the city of
90 Manchester from the 1850's to 1970/80's. It was an interesting way to talk about familiar areas
91 of the city that maybe aren't around as they used to be. He suggested the Commission look into
92 doing something similar, linking to their mapping project or as a story map.

93
94 Kristan Patenaude agreed and suggested further using a "swipe" feature to show areas of town as
95 they were historically and as they appear today.

96
97 Lisa Montesanto stated that the Lindabury Orchard Ciderfest will be held on September 28th.

98
99 Will Ludt thanked John Bement, Lisa Montesanto, and the Historical Society for their work on
100 Old Home Day festival. He would like the Heritage Commission to have a presence at the event
101 next year.

102
103 Simon Corson suggested that, along with creating the Josiah Parker spur trail, the Commission
104 reach out to NRPC

105
106 Nic Strong explained that the Planning Board meeting on the 18th will begin the process of
107 updating the Master Plan. The Master Plan should give a picture of where the Town is now, a
108 vision of its future and how the Town will get there. At the meeting a possible format for the
109 Master Plan and ways to collect the necessary data will be discussed.

110
111 In response to a question from Town Administrator Shankle, Will Ludt stated that, during the
112 last Master Plan process, the Heritage Commission was consulted and gave input, but this was
113 not ultimately accepted and used in the document.

114
115 Town Administrator Shankle explained that the Board of Selectmen is focusing on the Strategic
116 Planning process in Town. They will be involved in the Master Plan process and help to look at
117 the specific strategies involved in where the Town wants to go for the future.

118
119 Will Ludt stated that he would send the budget inputs for the Commission to the Community
120 Development Director. The budget items mostly revolve around educational outreach and a
121 budget for the minute taker.

122
123 Will Ludt also explained that the Freedom's Way National Heritage Area is interested in the 19th
124 Amendment – women's right to vote. They are hoping to develop stories in Massachusetts and
125 New Hampshire towns regarding suffragettes. The group is offering \$300 stipends to towns to
126 write up their ideas on this topic. The ideas are needed by the end of October.

127
128 **7. Minutes: 8 June 2019**

129
130 **Conor Frain moved to accept the minutes of June 8, 2019 as presented. John**
131 **Bement seconded.**

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Heritage Commission

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132 **All in favor.**

133

134 **The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.**

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139

140 Respectfully submitted,

141 Kristan Patenaude

142

143 Minutes approved: October 10, 2019