

Guiding Principles

The Village Streets Study Committee adopted the following 3 Guiding Principles September 5, 2023. They will be referred to for guidance when considering or deciding a difficult matter. A summary of citizen concerns over the last year has been included to reflect upon throughout the process.

3 Guiding Principles

1. When in doubt, refer to the Charter for the Village Streets Study Committee for guidance.
2. Respect the integrity of Amherst Village as a designated member of the National Register of Historic Places as well as historic landmarks (e.g. horse watering trough, etc.)
3. Prioritize citizen concerns about safety for everyone who enjoys the Amherst Village as a resident or uses the large public common as a gathering place.

CITIZEN CONCERNS FOR REVIEW AS VILLAGE STREETS PROPOSALS ASSESSED

- 1) Identify the problem(s) that need to be solved (safety, traffic, speed, trucking issues, noise)
 - Prioritize any proposed solutions to meet safety and aesthetic requirements
 - Address increasing traffic volume and associated noise where identified – avoid solutions that create more noise (rumble strips, speed bumps, raised sidewalks)
 - Address/develop regulations around truck access to the village
- 2) Do a thorough review of any pertinent documents such as:
 - Article 30 (the voter approved use of funds to study road/transportation issues in the Village)
 - Materials associated with the designation of Amherst Village as a National Historic Place
- 3) Respect the integrity of Amherst Village as a designated member of the National Register of Historic Places
- 4) Remember that the village is primarily a residential neighborhood unlike typical town centers

- 5) Preserve the rural simplicity and natural beauty of the village without making unnecessary or costly changes
 - The streetscape and environment evolved organically over time – make sure any improvements do
 - not look engineered or urban
 - Endeavor to leave existing streets intact without closing/rearranging them
- 6) Respect the large common as Amherst's public gathering space (avoid creating competing public squares)
- 7) When developing solutions, keep in mind the need to avoid past mistakes (e.g., overly aggressive paving in terms of street width and expansive intersections)
- 8) Employ natural materials when designing solutions (brick, cobblestones)
- 9) Respect the homeowners' properties and ability to have quiet enjoyment (e.g., storm water drainage, street vs. driveway height, snow storage, noise etc.)
- 10) Respect historic landmarks (e.g., horse watering trough, etc.)
- 11) Require that any changes be based on hard data (e.g., traffic studies, speeding studies, etc.)
- 12) Communicate with the public regarding meetings, scheduling and action items and attempt to get feedback from village residents regularly
- 13) Any response to an RFP or Grant Proposal will be written by and approved by the Amherst Village Streets Subcommittee
- 14) Any grant submittals will be validated against the public funds needed to submit (60/40, 80/20) and decisions based on a thorough cost benefit analysis