

**AMHERST HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Members Present:** Jane Wald - Chair, Patricia J. Auth, Janet Marquardt, Theodore Parker, Robin Fordham

**Staff Present:** Brandon Toponce, Historical Commission Staff Representative

**Meeting Date:** January 9, 2018

**Time Started:** 6:00 PM

**Time Ended:** 8:15 PM

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**AGENDA ITEMS**

**Minutes**

The Commission reviewed and approved the December 5, 2018 minutes, with corrections.

**David Fichter, One East Pleasant Amherst Mural**

Mr. Fichter, artist for the mural to be located at One East Pleasant, presented drawings showing the mural design. The drawing showed an extension of painted landscaping on the south west wall. All spaces that were windows on the Carriage Shop have been filled in, and aspects of the painting have been brought up further on the wall to soften the edge of the mural.

Mr. Parker asked if the mural was larger than the original mural found on the carriage shop.

Mr. Fichter explained the wall was slightly longer and for this reason he is adding the additional landscaping on the south west.

The Commissioners further discussed color, schedule of the project and how they liked the softening of the line across the top of the mural.

Mr. Toponce reminded the Commission that the owner of One East Pleasant would be returning after the mural was completed as to receive approval for the lighting and interpretive signage.

Ms. Marquardt made a motion to approve the modification to the mural located at One East Pleasant, as shown on the plans presented to the Historical Commission on January 9, 2019.

Ms. Auth seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

**Demolition Delay Bylaw, Article 13 Committee Update**

Mr. Parker discussed how the group was finalizing the Intent and Purposes section of the Bylaw and would be working on Definitions and Procedures at the next meeting. The following terms would be defined: Preferably preserved, built environment, inventory, emergency demolition, modification, demolition, demolition permit, significant structure, demolition by neglect.

Ms. Wald requested the existing definitions be revised.

Ms. Marquardt suggested that a hierarchy be created that begins with structure, then significant structure, and preferably preserved. She also suggested the word built environment may be too broad and that it be included within the structure definition.

Mr. Parker also suggested a flow chart of the process be created to help the general public know what takes place when a review by the Historical Commission is required.

### **CPAC Representative**

Mr. Parker made a motion that Robin Fordham be the new Historical Commission Representative to the Community Preservation Act Committee. Ms. Marquardt seconded the motion and it passed 5-0.

Ms. Fordham then left the meeting at 6:45

### **Writers Walk**

Mr. Toponce stated that Mr. Gilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works, suggested the total cost to place the signs at their location would be \$100 to \$200, and this would be billed out of the account for the signs.

Ms. Marquardt informed the Commission that Jon Olsen from UMass will be maintaining the writers walk website, and the Town IT Department will only need to create a link to the writers walk web page.

Ms. Wald suggested that instead of a brochure, a rack card be created to guide visitors to the website. The other Commissioners agreed this was preferred over a more expensive brochure.

Ms. Wald passed out corrections that she had made in relation to the writers walk language, which the Commission discussed and made further corrections and suggestions.

### **Other CPA Project Updates**

Ms. Wald stated that the library is fourth in line on the states list of libraries in need of state funding for renovations. She would like for the Commission to have this on the agenda for periodic updates.

The Commission reviewed the CPA chart of outstanding balances and current projects. They requested Mr. Toponce contact the Amherst Historical Society to address the status on several outstanding projects. They also requested Mr. Toponce create a letter for the Library Trustees to remind them of the idea of having the Civil War tablets displayed at the Library. The Commission also agreed on some funding that could be sent back to CPAC, and other projects such as the lights, signs and landscaping at the West Cemetery to remain on the list.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, at 6:00 PM. Ms. Marquardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Ms. Auth seconded the motion, which passed 4-0. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.