

Amherst Historical Commission
Public Hearing
Minutes
Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 5:00pm
Zoom: <https://amherstma.zoom.us/j/99945159088>

Attendance: Jane Wald, Patricia Auth, Janet Marquardt, Hetty Startup, Robin Fordham, Jane Sheffler, Nathaniel Malloy (Town Staff) and Benjamin Breger (Town Staff)

Guests: Aelan Tierney, "16178230385", Amilcar Shabazz, Dee Shabazz, Garrison Piers-Gamble, Hilda Greenbaum, Martha Jamison, Zinnia Stetson, Chris Daley, Laura Baker, "Maura"

Documents and Handouts: Notice of Public Hearing for Demolition Delay, Application for Permit to Demolish at 30 Fearing Street, Historical Narrative for 30 Fearing Street, Application for Permit to Demolish at 300 North Pleasant Street, Historical Narrative for 300 North Pleasant Street, Application to Demolish at 117 Amity Street, Architectural Plan for 117 Amity Street from Kuhn-Riddle Architects.

Call to Order: 5:04pm

PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. 30 Fearing Street (11C-121) Martha Jamison**– Request to demolish a ca. 1930 attached one-car garage and exterior renovations to house.
Ms. Jamison presented her request.

Motion to close hearing for Historical Commission to deliberate made by Janet Marquardt and seconded by Patricia Auth. Motion carried with unanimous support.

Discussion:

Is the garage, which is physically attached to the house, part of the house, or a separate structure? For purposes of evaluating the criteria of Designation as a Significant Structure, we will consider the whole house.

The Commission finds, based on the criteria, that the house meets the Standards for Designation of a Significant Structure criteria 13.4100, 13.4111, and 13.4121, including dwelling and garage, to be a Significant Structure.

Motion to approve demolition permit for the garage made by Janet Marquardt and seconded by Patricia Auth.

Commission unanimously moves to affirm the demolition request for the garage.

- 2. 300 North Pleasant Street (11C-170) Historic Renovations (Joel Greenbaum)**– Request to demolish a ca. 1880 post and beam building behind main house.

Mr. Greenbaum presented his request.

Motion to close hearing for Historical Commission to deliberate made by Janet Marquardt and seconded by Jane Sheffler. Motion carried with unanimous support.

The Commission finds that the structure does not meet any of the Standards for Designation of a Significant Structure criteria and is therefore found not to be a Significant Structure.

As the structure was found to not be significant, no voted was needed. Therefore, demolition can proceed.

3. 117 Amity Street (14A-27) Susan Haas and Donald Fisher (Aelan Tierney, Garrison Piers-Gamble, Zinnia Stetson) – Request for partial demolition of a ca 1927 attached garage.

Ms. Tierney, Mr. Piers-Gamble, and Ms. Stetson presented Haas and Fisher's request.

Questions raised by the Commission:

1. Are the doors salvageable? *No-they are rotted throughout.*
2. Are the transom windows above the doors salvageable? *Yes-they could potentially be reused.*

Motion to close hearing for Historical Commission to deliberate made by Janet Marquardt and seconded by Patricia Auth. Motion carried with unanimous support.

The Commission finds, based on the Standards for Designation of a Significant Structure criteria, that the property is within a National Register District. Therefore the house, including dwelling and garage, is a Significant Structure.

Motion to approve demolition permit for the garage made by Janet Marquardt and seconded by Robin Fordham.

Commission unanimously moves to approve the demolition request for the garage.

PUBLIC MEETING

1. Announcements: None

2. Review Minutes: None

3. General Updates:

- a. **Civil War Tablets:** A group of citizens, headed by Anika Lopes, is working on the preservation and display of the Civil War Tablets.

b. Review and Discussion of 132 Northampton Road Comprehensive Permit: The plan has been submitted to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Historical Commission will review and discuss this further at our July meeting.

c. Discussion of Demolition Delay Bylaw Updates:

Chris Skelly from MHC has agreed to conduct a remote workshop/presentation about Demolition Delay Bylaws. Because our bylaws are under review it would be a Public Meeting. It is a 90-minute presentation and there will be room for questions. Plan to have an additional meeting for this presentation in July.

A member of the Town Council has some concerns with how the Demolition Delay Bylaws are being used by the Historical Commission.

4. Public Comment:

Hilda Greenbaum: Raised concerns about people wanting to do away with the Historical Commission.

Dr. Amicar Shabazz: Confirming that we received the letter about the Civil War tablets and open the dialogue between the group and the Historical Commission.

5. Unanticipated Items:

- a. Update on the Writers Walk: Delay with procurement contract in accounting office. Jan is following up.
- b. Site Visit to the Conkey-Stevens House (664 Main St) scheduled for this Friday (6/26) at 9:15 am to meet with the Property Manager to discuss issues with the house and the removal of the fence around the house.

Next Meeting: July 22, 2020

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Janet Marquardt and seconded by Robin Fordham. Commission unanimously moves to adjourn meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:26 pm