

Amherst Historical Commission
MEETING
Tuesday, November 18, 2008
Planning Dept. Office, Town Hall
7:15 p.m.

Present: Gai Carpenter, Lyle Denit, Louis Greenbaum, Michael Hanke, James Wald. **Staff:** Nathaniel Malloy, Associate Planner. **Absent:** Elizabeth Sharpe, Jonathan Tucker, Director of Planning.

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., and noted Lynda Faye's resignation from the Design Review Board and Historical Commission for professional reasons.

The minutes of the November 3 meeting were presented. Ms. Carpenter has accepted some changes from Mr. Tucker. At Mr. Wald's request, she promised to review the minutes for punctuation improvements and to revise Jane Wald's title to Executive Director of the Dickinson Museum, Mr. Denit moved approval, Mr. Hanke seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wald reviewed some of the items that the Historical Commission has previously asked for without, perhaps, as much thought as the projects deserved. He expressed his opinion that the Historical Commission should ask for significant funding, but should have a clear sense of priorities based on a review of the Preservation Plan and outstanding projects.

Commission members referred to a spreadsheet previously distributed by Mr. Wald to review the Preservation Plan and FY10 CPA project priorities. From the ensuing discussion, it was clear that there is strong consensus for completing work on the West Cemetery restoration. The outstanding work includes work on the Town Tomb, the African-American section of the cemetery, and landscape work in several areas.

A number of other projects outlined in the Preservation Plan were linked to one another and offered a logical sequence. Completion of the inventory of historic properties, including updating existing records, adding information about outbuildings, and implementing an online version of the inventory, was favored. The possibility of obtaining a grant to facilitate that work would allow the project to be addressed aggressively.

Documentation of historic sites and districts would also contribute to additional applications for national historic register status for areas like the Bay Road corridor. The compilation would also help in developing a system of directional and informational signs, including an opportunity for homeowners to purchase signs to indicate the historic status of their properties.

Local Historic District(s) or overlay districts were also widely supported, as was the concept of a revolving loan fund to assist property owners in undertaking historic preservation projects on their homes or outbuildings. Several of the priorities were agreed to have components of outreach and education for residents to understand the opportunities and implications of possible CPA funding support, or of local historic districts.

With Ms. Faye's resignation, Mr. Wald noted that new members should be invited, and asked current members to encourage individuals who might be interested in serving to complete the necessary citizen interest forms.

The Commission's next meeting is scheduled for Dec. 1, 2008.

Mr. Denit moved adjournment at 9:59 p.m., and in an unprecedented executive action, Mr. Wald asked for a sign of all in favor. *Sic transit* Commission Tuesday.

Respectfully submitted,
Gai Carpenter, Clerk