

Amherst Historical Commission  
MEETING  
Monday, December 1, 2008  
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall  
7:15 p.m.

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

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:21p.m. Mr. Wald mentioned the issue of becoming a “certified local historic district” and noted that there would be a workshop in Boston on Friday. Mr. Denit moved approval of the minutes of November 18; Mr. Hanke seconded his motion, and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Tucker mentioned that Ms. Faye was the Commission’s Design Review Board representative. With her resignation from the Commission, Mr. Wald has volunteered to serve in her stead. Ms. Carpenter moved nomination of Mr. Wald to the DRB; Mr. Denit seconded, and the vote was five in favor with Mr. Wald abstaining. Ms. Carpenter noted that the Historical Commission also lacked a vice chair. Mr. Denit nominated Mr. Hanke; Ms. Sharpe seconded, and the vote was five in favor with Mr. Hanke abstaining.

Mr. Wald invited Mr. Hanke to present his work on design of a logo for the West Cemetery signs. Mr. Hanke reviewed materials from Mr. Tucker and photos of some stones. The Commission reviewed graphic images and mockups of signs with various renditions of logos. Following a discussion of designs, proportions, posts, and shapes, the Commission asked Mr. Hanke to produce two final proposals for the next meeting. After approval/selection of a design by the Historical Commission, it should go to DRB and Select Board for their approval and information.

Mr. Wald mentioned that Alpha Tau Gamma has done some bulb planting at West Cemetery and that further landscape work may be done in the spring. Mr. Tucker provided a follow up report on lighting and the necessary electrical box installation. Mr. Tucker and Mr. Wald also commented on the previously approved North and South cemetery assessments.

Mr. Greenbaum reported on the recent CPAC meeting which engaged in conversation about issues raised in court decision that might affect the Plum Brook Recreation Area funding plan. Meeting participants discussed uses of CPA funding and touched on items like signs. The Commission engaged in a brief further discussion of CPAC dynamics and priorities.

Mr. Wald introduced Ms. Jenkins to discuss CPA possibilities for North Church. The Parish Hall needs work; it serves a number of constituencies and has served as a community center. The church wants to fix the Parish Hall roof and retain its historic appearance. Ms. Jenkins and the Commission held a discussion of the roof and other possible projects; the Commission was careful to include coverage of the preservation restriction requirement which accompanies CPA funding.

The Commission returned to preservation plan priorities and notes from last meeting. Mr. Tucker noted that funding was already available for some of the work that received a high priority, like work on the Bay Road corridor National Register nomination. Mr. Tucker also commented on the idea of overlay district as zoning tool. Mr. Wald reviewed other items that have both priority and funding.

Mr. Greenbaum questioned whether any organizations other than North Church have made overtures about CPA funding. Ms. Sharpe asked about the Amherst Woman's Club decision to decline funding, leading to a coda of the conversation about CPAC and historic preservation restrictions. That conversation segued to consideration of a fact sheet draft from Mr. Tucker on CPA funding and possible addition of forms to be completed by applicants.

Mr. Wald moved expeditiously through the rest of the agenda with minor updates on the local historic district process and status of the NHR nomination for the Aaron Warner house. Mr. Malloy updated the Commission on the planned application for state funding to update the historic inventory.

Ms. Sharpe moved to ask the staff to communicate the Historical Commission's support for the Emily Dickinson Museum if any zoning variance may be required for restoration of the fences and hedges; Mr. Denit seconded the motion and the vote was five in favor with Mr. Wald abstaining.

Mr. Wald mentioned historic preservation awards that the Commission used to make, and observed that the Commission hasn't made awards lately. He would like to reactivate the practice, especially in conjunction with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Commission members updated one another on the Scott House work by Amherst College. The siding, sills, structural members, sheathing, windows, roofing, chimney, and stairway have been let go, and it appears that virtually only the interior paneling will be reused.

Mr. Wald and Mr. Hanke commented on the Sunday *New York Times* article on preservation.

Mr. Wald noted the time, and the need to set next meeting.

Next meeting: January 5, 2009.

The Commission adjourned at 10:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gai Carpenter  
Clerk