

Amherst Historical Commission
MEETING
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall
7:30 p.m.

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

Mr. Wald convened the meeting at 7:32. Minutes of the meetings of January 27 and February 10 were presented. Ms. Sharpe moved acceptance of both sets of minutes; Mr. Denit seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Sharpe asked to add an item regarding use of the West Cemetery mural to the agenda.

The meeting focused primarily on consideration of Historical Commission requests for FY 10 CPA funding. Mr. Tucker reviewed Town Counsel's observations on CPA funding of historic preservation projects. The Commission reviewed revised wording of proposed signs for West Cemetery and the Dickinson District. Mr. Tucker also responded to Ms. Carpenter's question about the background of the Counsel's opinion. Mr. Greenbaum described some of the dynamics of CPAC and the apparent resistance to signs project(s). Ms. Sharpe commented forcefully on the centrality of signs as public education/information about historic resources. Mr. Tucker shared several quotations from the Massachusetts Historical Commission's *Guidelines* for local historical commissions. In a lengthy discussion, Commission members agreed to ask Mr. Wald, Mr. Greenbaum and staff to continue work to persuade CPAC and Town Counsel of the merits of the Historical Commission's requests. In reviewing specific requests, Mr. Wald requested that the Town Tomb line item be increased to \$30,000, and that the amount for landscape restoration in West Cemetery be reinstated. Other possible changes and adjustments were discussed.

Mr. Denit moved to ask Mr. Wald to convey and emphasize the Historical Commission's interest in Warner House to Hampshire College; Ms. Sharpe seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Mr. Wald and Mr. Greenbaum reported on their meeting with UMass and the signing of the MoA. Mr. Greenbaum extolled the efforts of Joe Larson and PUMA in the effort to preserve UMass historic structures.

Mr. Denit moved to allow the use of West Cemetery Mural image(s) in *Amherst A-Z*, being written by Ms. Sharpe for the Amherst Historical Society, and to authorize the Chair to sign any necessary permissions; Ms. Carpenter seconded the motion. In discussion, Ms. Sharpe mentioned that she is looking for some other images for *Amherst A-Z*, especially Angeline Palmer-related items. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Mr. Malloy called the Commission's attention to a site plan review submission for 197 College Street.

The Commission's next meeting will be held on March 30 at 7:15 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Gai Carpenter
Clerk