

Amherst Historical Commission  
MEETING  
Monday, March 30, 2009  
Pole Room, Bangs Community Center  
7:15 p.m.

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

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. Mr. Tucker suggested some changes to the minutes of March 10. Ms. Sharpe moved approval as corrected; Mr. Greenbaum seconded; passed unanimously.

Mr. Wald invited Mr. Greenbaum to talk about the most recent CPAC meeting. Mr. Greenbaum recounted the gist of a challenging meeting and the need for extensive and tedious presentation of each line item in the Historical Commission's proposal. All Commission recommendations were ultimately approved. Mr. Wald reviewed items in that proposal which may be more or less supported in Town Meeting, and how the Commission might present the case for the proposal. Mr. Wald and Mr. Greenbaum provided a thorough review of the CPAC discussion and politics.

Mr. Wald posed a question on what preparations are needed for Town Meeting. Mr. Tucker responded with some ideas about how to bundle the information and develop presentations for the meeting. The Commission discussed other elements of presentation, and Mr. Greenbaum suggested that Joe Larson might be a helpful commentator on the importance of the completing the inventory, given his recent experience with Preserve UMass Amherst (PUMA).

Mr. Greenbaum moved and Ms. Carpenter seconded rescission of funding for publications, given the legal opinion that publications are not a legitimate CPA project. The vote was 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

Mr. Wald reported that the Select Board has named a seven-member Local Historic District committee.

Mr. Tucker noted that the Massachusetts Historical Commission has all the requested material for the Aaron Warner house nomination.

Mr. Tucker and Mr. Malloy commented on the preservation grant application process. The Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan will be updated and submitted; the application will also require reappraisal of the Main Street lots, particularly in light of the recent sales of properties.

Mr. Malloy mentioned additional grant possibilities, including "Save America's Treasures," leading to further discussion of possible projects and sites for grant-supported work.

Mr. Wald reported that a proposal for signs on the Town Common for the Amherst Farmers' Market was brought before the Design Review Board last week. A joint meeting of the DRB and the Historical Commission was suggested.

Next meetings April 14 if needed  
April 28  
May 12

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gai Carpenter  
Clerk