

Amherst Historical Commission  
MEETING  
Tuesday, April 28, 2009  
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall  
7:15 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. Present from the Design Review Board: Kathryn Grandonico, Jonathan Salvon, Christine Brestrup. Guests: Jim Mulcahy, Bonnie Isman.

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. There were no announcements. Mr. Greenbaum moved approval of the minutes of March 30, Ms. Carpenter seconded, motion passed.

While awaiting the arrival of additional Historical Commission members to commence the scheduled joint meeting, Mr. Denit reported enthusiastically about 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary events and the calendar of activities for the summer.

At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Wald opened the joint meeting with Design Review Board to review Town Common historical issues and sign proposals. Ms. Brestrup provided background on the Farmers' Market sign proposal. Mr. Tucker reviewed the history of the Design Review Board, and of the Town Common in both its utilitarian and aesthetic roles. The discussion gradually focused on comments on process and the observation that the Farmers' Market people didn't have one, and so went directly to the Town Manager with preliminary designs. Mr. Wald asked the Historical Commission members for opinions on the Farmers' Market sign. Mr. Denit suggested that if there were any sign, it should explain the history of the common. Other Historical Commission members were not supportive of market sign, and expressed varied opinions on general information signs about the Common.

Mr. Tucker suggested some possible courses of action, including the idea of a joint resolution conveying sense of meeting. Ms. Sharpe moved that the Historical Commission and Design Review Board state their collective opposition to the placement of a sign on the Town Common, Mr. Greenbaum seconded, and the vote was unanimous. The Joint Meeting also talked about the roles of the Select Board and Town Manager. Mr. Tucker suggested ongoing joint meetings of the Historical Commission and Design Review Board to study policy options for signs and structures on the town's commons. Mr. Wald suggested a motion to endorse that idea; no motion was forthcoming. Mr. Greenbaum then moved to have the Chair communicate with the Select Board and Town Manager to indicate that all proposals for signs or structures on the commons should go to the Design Review Board and Historical Commission early in the design process; further that the Historical Commission and Design Review Board are prepared to meet jointly to discuss such proposals. Ms. Sharpe seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous for both boards.

Mr. Wald reported on the Community Preservation Act "bus tour" to look at projects being proposed for funding at the Annual Town Meeting. Bonnie Isman said she saw the tour group as edgy and concerned about budgets overall. There was a brief discussion of what is really involved in the "study" of the Jones Library roof and air conditioning requests and how best to explain those to Town Meeting.

The Historical Commission held another long conversation about the CPA presentation to Town Meeting; Mr. Greenbaum suggested how the presentation might be sequenced to tie the projects

together, and further that perhaps that overview could be used if there is motion to divide the article. During further conversation about background information, Mr. Mulcahy commented on the possible format of the handouts that were already being prepared for distribution to Town Meeting members.

Mulcahy presented the ATG proposal for continuing work on the 1730 Knoll in West Cemetery; the fraternity will be doing additional plantings in May.

The Historical Commission returned to its Town Meeting preparation to decide which members would speak on particular projects.

The Commission considered the Town Meeting article regarding the Mullin Rule; Ms. Carpenter moved that the Commission ask that it be included in the application of the Mullin Rule; Ms. Sharpe seconded; the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Tucker distributed a letter from the Hadley Historical Commission to Nicole Sanford of Stantec Consulting Services regarding proposed improvements to the Norwottuck Rail Trail and raising specific historic preservation imperatives.

Mr. Malloy reported that the Jewish Community of Amherst might have a new proposal to bring to the Commission.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 12.  
The meeting adjourned 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gai Carpenter, Clerk