

Amherst Historical Commission  
MEETING  
Tuesday, May 12, 2009  
Town Room, Town Hall  
7:15 p.m.

Present: James Wald, Chair; Michael Hanke, Vice-Chair; Gai Carpenter, Clerk; Lyle Denit. Absent: Louis Greenbaum, Elizabeth Sharpe. Guests: Sara and Gareth Ross

Mr. Wald called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m. when a quorum assembled. There were no announcements. Mr. Denit moved and Mr. Hanke seconded approval of the minutes of the meeting of April 28; the minutes were accepted.

Mr. Denit urged members to continue to check the 250th Anniversary calendar and website.

Mr. Wald reported that the Local Historic District Study Committee met last week and discussed process; either Mr. Tucker or Mr. Malloy is likely to be staff support. The seven-member group will meet monthly and is considering which of the current historic districts might be the best to investigate for local historic district status.

The Commission engaged in a lengthy discussion with Sara and Gareth Ross about the process for demolition delay hearings relating to their plans for a house at 82 Cottage Street. Mr. Denit moved to schedule a public hearing; Mr. Hanke seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The hearing was tentatively scheduled for June 2, depending on the availability of Commission members.

The Commission discussed the proposed Clark House wireless installation and had no comments to offer. The Commission also reviewed the planned Norwottuck Rail Trail improvements but lacked understanding of the details of plans in terms of possible historic impacts and specific sites that might be affected. Members decided to refer the matter to staff for a report overview of the possible impacts in Amherst.

Commission members agreed to respond positively to the Public Works Committee's request to the Commission and the Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee for a joint hearing on the possibility of repairs to the Sand Hill Road bridge.

The Commission considered UMass plans to demolish a barn at Wsocki House (911 North Pleasant Street). Ms. Carpenter noted an apparent discrepancy between the GIS map information and the text description of the structure in question. Mr. Wald described UMass plans for an interpretive/instructive presentation on the history of the campus. Mr. Wald will contact Joe Larson about follow-up.

Mr. Wald reported on the status of Community Preservation Act proposals, and distributed an update tally of Town Meeting actions. He also distributed recommendations for immediate (summer 2009) action including continuing work on West Cemetery restoration. The Commission discussed requirements to move forward on both newly and previously approved projects.

Next Meetings - June 2 or 9 (demolition delay hearing), June 23,  
2009

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gai Carpenter, Clerk