

Minutes of the LHDSC Meeting

Attendance

LHDSC members present were: Jerry Guidera, Chair; Jim Wald, Vice-Chair; Wendy Kohler, Clerk; Lynda Faye; Philip Shaver; and Tini Sawicki

Others present were Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director and Nathaniel Malloy, Associate Planner

Absent: Bill Gillen

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Tucker suggested some possible courses of action, including the two main tasks of deciding which area and boundary of the first potential Local Historic District (LHD) and exchanging information with communities that currently have an LHD.

After a thorough discussion about establishing the boundaries of the LHD, the Committee came to a consensus that the existing Dickinson National Historic Register (NHR) District, which includes the Evergreens and Dickinson Homestead and is a well-established cultural and economic locus of Amherst, is a good starting point for delineating the LHD. The current NHR District is walkable and includes a coherent palette of architecture related to the Dickinson family and is emblematic of a significant period of development in Amherst's history. The committee agreed that the final boundaries of the LHD may differ from those of the NHR District if research and site assessments support this change.

Ms. Faye moved: that the Committee focus on the Dickinson National Historic Register District as a potential area for the Local Historic District. Ms. Sawicki seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous, 6-0, to approve this focus area.

The Committee then began the task of selecting officers:

Ms. Faye nominated Mr. Guidera as Chair and Ms. Kohler seconded this nomination, Mr. Guidera nominated Mr. Wald as Vice-Chair and Ms. Faye seconded this nomination, and Ms. Faye nominated Ms. Kohler as Clerk with Mr. Guidera seconding this nomination.

Nominations were closed and the Committee voted unanimously, 6-0, to appoint the following slate of officers: Mr. Guidera, Chair, Mr. Wald, Vice-Chair, and Ms. Kohler, Clerk.

Local Historic District Study Committee
August 4, 2009 – 5:00 PM
First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

The Committee then discussed the possibility of visiting other communities in Massachusetts that have established a Local Historic District. Members agreed to individually research relevant communities and that an informal survey should be used to ask a standard set of questions when visiting or communicating with selected communities. It was agreed that survey questions and suggestions should be sent to staff prior to the next meeting to help compile the survey.

Next Meeting(s)

September 8, 2009 @ 5:00 p.m.—walking tour of the Dickinson NHR District

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nathaniel Malloy
Staff Liaison